THE NEW
SUNDAY EXPRESS

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CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ WARANGAL ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

Will ban Chinese app TikTok in US: Trump

US President Donald Trump has said that he will act to ban TikTok, amidst reports of Microsoft being in advanced talks to acquire the Chinese-owned app. Talking to reporters aboard Air Force One, Trump said he could use the emergency economic powers or an executive order to ban it.

Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department
Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department

Everyone, everyday everytime use Toilet

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Swachha Gramasutra 5

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Shri B. S. Yediyurappa
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Govt of Karnataka

Policing services will be made available beyond the force's strength and capacity

Kamal Pant, Commissioner

Bhaskar Rao (R) greets his successor Kamal Pant in Bengaluru on Saturday | SHRIRAM BN

The police have managed the lockdown well since March, thanks to their resilience. Their morale has to be kept high

Bhaskar Rao, ADGP

B'LURU POLICE WILL BE PEOPLE-CENTRIC: PANT

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

ADDITIONAL Director General of Police (ADGP) Kamal Pant, who took charge as Bengaluru City Police Commissioner on Saturday a day after the government ordered the transfer of ADGP Bhaskar Rao, has warned that the city police will not tolerate anti-social activities and strict action will be taken against such elements. "The safety of women and children is my priority and people's cooperation is required to curb the menace of drugs," he said. Cyber crimes will also be in focus.

In a fast-growing city, only an alert policing system will be effective in ensuring the safety of citizens, specially the seniors, he said.

CONTINUED ON: P5

K'TAKA COVID-19 BATTLE

5,172 Test +ve on Saturday

2,412 TOTAL DEATHS

TOTAL CASES **1,29,287**

RECOVERIES **53,648**

MORE ON PAGE 4

40 cr Indians in line for 1st vaccine shot

Senior virologists say Centre lags in putting together comprehensive vaccine distribution plan

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA
@ New Delhi

IF vulnerable groups in India are to be the first beneficiaries of the Covid-19 vaccine, as enunciated by the government, a whopping 40 crore people, or 30% of India's total population, will need the vaccine, prompting fears of a scramble, at least in the beginning.

The sheer scale of the numbers, coupled with the fact that the government appears to be slow in putting together a vaccination distribution plan, is worrying experts and planners alike.

On June 30, a statement from the Prime Minister's Office said that PM Narendra Modi had outlined four guiding principles that would form the foundation of the Covid-19 vaccination programme.

These principles included identification and prioritisation of vulnerable groups such as healthcare workers, non-medical frontline corona warriors and vulnerable people among the general population and availability of vaccines without conditions such as domicile.

It also said the vaccine must be affordable and universal, in other words, no person should be left behind, and the entire process from production to vaccination should be monitored and supported in real time with the use of technology.

A query sent to the Department of Biotechnology Secretary Renu Swarup and newly-appointed Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan on the vaccination distribution plan remained unanswered but Bhushan, on being asked a related question at a press conference a few days back, had said the vaccine distribution policy was "under deliberation".

CONTINUED ON: P7

HIGH-RISK GROUPS

22 lakh — Healthcare workers
12 crore — People above 60 years

Hypertension, diabetes, cancer patients: **35 crore**

Police, paramilitary personnel: **15 lakh**

Prioritisation plan

Experts say there should be a prioritisation plan in place with mapping of vulnerable people done at the earliest

Preparations for the ground-breaking ceremony for the temple construction are on in Ayodhya on Saturday | PTI

Ayodhya gearing up for a grand makeover

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

THE construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya is expected to kick off a makeover of the temple town. From an elevated road and a theme park, to a Ramayan circuit and a Ram katha park, the town will get an all-new look.

Despite the temple movement, Ayodhya has remained backward across economic parameters of development. The nearest airport in Faizabad was upgraded only in 2014, it has no big industry and no gainful employment, though the literacy rate at 78.15% is higher than Uttar Pradesh's average of 67.68%. Ayodhya's largely agrarian support is slackening as productivity has gone down. The good news is the temple town is set to turn the corner.

CONTINUED ON: P8

EXPRESS READ

Gehlot ready to welcome rebels back

Jaisalmer/Jaipur: Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot said he is open to welcoming back the Congress rebels led by Sachin Pilot, adding, "It depends on the party high command." P8

Former SP leader Amar Singh dies

New Delhi: Rajya Sabha MP Amar Singh died on Saturday in Singapore, where he was under treatment for kidney ailments. He was 64. P8

Govt widens MSME credit scheme ambit

New Delhi: The Centre extended the ₹3-lakh crore MSME credit scheme by doubling the ceiling of loans outstanding to ₹50 cr and including professionals. P10

WITH THIS ISSUE
INDIA'S SHADOW WARRIORS
PLUS 12 PAGES MAGAZINE

Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department
Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department

Shri B. S. Yediyurappa
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Govt of Karnataka

Our Sutra for
Swachha Gramodaya

The Govt. of Karnataka is striving to ensure clean, Open Defecation Free villages and to provide clean, safe drinking water to all households.

Details of the projects in the year 2019-20

Individual Toilets	Community Toilets	Solid Waste Management Units	Beneficiaries of 28 Multi Village Drinking Water Programs
3,47,596	800	417	8,67,000

Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj **Sri K.S Eshwarppa** inspecting the work progress with department officials.

Open Defecation Free Karnataka

- Support to families to own toilets
- Community toilets for sustainable sanitation
- "Swachhameva Jayate" awareness campaign

Scientific Waste Management

- Initiative taken to build 1533 solid waste management units
- Karnataka State Rural Sanitation Policy, Strategy & Bye laws-2020 are implemented
- Initiative taken to install 30 Gobardhan units

Mane Manege Gange

- Providing 55 lts of water to everyone, everyday under 'Jal Jeevan Mission'
- Establishing water purification plants to provide drinking water
- 77 laboratories are setup to test the quality of drinking water

To protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wild life and to have compassion for living creatures is the fundamental duty of every citizen of the the country.

scan this QR code to watch Department videos

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GovtOfKarnatakaRdpr
GokRDPR @gokRDPR

THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

SUNDAY STORY

ALMANAC TODAY
• Sunday 02/08/2020 • Year: Sarvari • Ayana : Dakshinayana • Ritu: Varsha
• Masa: Sravana • Paksha: Shukla • Tithi: Chaturdashi 8.43 pm • Nakshatra: Purvashada 7.14 am
• Moon in Makara Rashi • Rahukaala: 04:30 pm to 06:00pm
• Gulikakala: 03:00 pm to 04:30 pm • Yamaganda: 12:00 pm to 01:30 pm

WEATHER WATCH
MIN 21°C | MAX 27°C
FORECAST
Light showers. Mostly cloudy

Sunrise 6.05 am
Sunset 6.46 pm
Moonrise 12.00 pm
Moonset 4.37 am

02 BENGALURU | SUNDAY 02.08.2020 | newindianexpress.com

TREE-FIC INITIATIVE

Couple helps in planting over 50 lakh trees on agricultural lands by convincing farmers

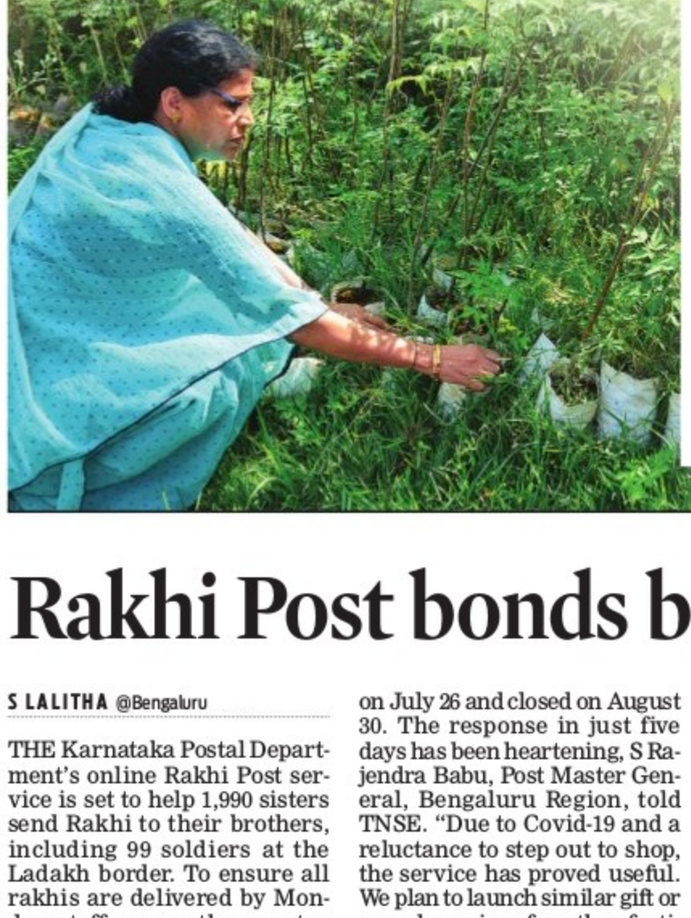
For a greener tomorrow

Working with the government, the couple has helped several farmers learn the importance of afforestation, under the Krishi Aranya Prothsaha Yojana scheme. Every year in January, the forest department records details from farmers on what species they require and provides them with the saplings during the rainy season. A spot visit is made each year by a forest department officer to monitor the growth of the saplings. Farmers are given Rs 100 for each tree they grow.

Farmers in this belt cut trees for firewood. Encouraging them to grow trees instead has helped a lot in maintaining the balance in nature here. There is a good demand for plywood in the market, and now, after the awareness programmes held by the couple, many farmers have started growing hebbevu (a fast-growing tree used in the plywood industry) for this purpose

— Sathyappa, founder of Sathya Foundation, Hunsur

PICS BY HS GAJENDRA



K RATHNA @Mysuru

LOVE for nature and preserving native species of trees has led this couple on a fulfilling journey, which won't be seeing an end anytime soon. N Basavarajappa (64) and his wife A R Sudhamani (56) have helped in planting over 50 lakh trees on agricultural lands by convincing farmers to grow them, in Hunsur and KR Nagar.

For the last eight years, the couple, along with four staffers, has been visiting households and interacting with villagers regularly, providing them with solutions on how to make profits by growing trees on their lands as well as spreading awareness on the importance of green cover.

Sudhamani was already working in the social services space, and had started an NGO called Spoorthi Samsthe in 2009 for the upliftment of women in rural areas, and this motivated the couple to follow their other passion -- conserving nature.

The couple started encouraging farmers to focus on afforestation by growing jackfruit, neem, hebbevu, tamarind, bamboo, teak, honne, silver oak, nerale and other native species.

Saplings are procured for the farmers from the forest department, and farmers get Rs 100 from the government for maintaining a tree for at least three years. The growth of the plants is closely monitored for three years and the couple provide whatever assistance is needed to the farmers. The couple says many farmers have since shown interest in taking up afforestation, but that they wish the government could come up with some kind of a scheme to help them earn money from their efforts in increasing the green cover.

One hurdle the couple faced was convincing the tobacco farmers of the Hunsur and Periyapatna belt to cultivate other saplings. However, they overcame this through extensive talks and educating them on the importance as well as the monetary benefits of growing various kinds of trees.

Sudhamani told *The New Sunday Express* that she has watched the green cover in these regions decline due to the growth in population and agriculture. "Tobacco crops, cultivated extensively in the area, use up a lot of firewood. We have lost a lot of tree cover due to this and it's important to replenish it. Also, with pumpsets and borewells going dry in rural areas, growing trees will be helpful in increasing groundwater levels," she says.

Talking about the importance of people joining hands to take up afforestation, Basavarajappa says, "The public and farmers must work together with the government in ensuring that the afforestation schemes work. We have successfully planted 50 lakh saplings and one lakh sandalwood saplings this year in the region, which will help the farmers make some money too."

An artist's experience of Anubhava Mantapa

RAMKRISHNA BADSESHI @Kalaburagi

ANUBHAVA Mantapa, set up by Basaveshwara in the 12th century in Basavakalyan (Bidar district), was the abode of great mysticism, spiritual awakening and religious discourse. Helmed by Basavanna, along with the omniscient Sharanas, the mantapa emerged as a fountainhead of religious renaissance, which Jagadevappa Shankarappa Khanderao – one of the greatest artists from Kalyana Karnataka – has brought to life on canvas.

With piety and resolve, Khanderao's 'life-like' painting is a reflection of those wise selfless minds who came together to uplift religious thought and emancipate society over 800 years ago.

Khanderao says that the desire to paint a version of the 'first religious parliament in the world' came to him when he once chanced upon a statue of Basaveshwara riding a horse in New Delhi. In order to understand the elements that would eventually culminate into his masterpiece, Khanderao researched Basava Sahitya, Vachana Sahitya and Kalyani Chalukyan art for about six months, besides visiting the Chalukyan monuments to study their structure, design and motifs. He eventually completed the landscape painting of Anubhava Mantapa in two months' time.

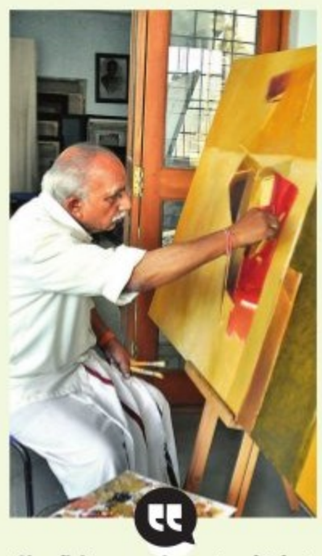
"I made an effort to bring all the Sharanas known to participate in the Anubhava Mantapa, with the great Sharana Allamaprabhu chairing the meeting. Basaveshwara, Chennabasavanna, Sidharama, Kinnari Bommaiah, Madivala Machaiah, Nuli Chandaiah, Ambigara Choudaiah, Neelambike and Gangambike (Basaveshwara's wives), Akka Mahadevi, Muktayakka and Aydakki Maramma are usually identified as 'Anubhavigala Koota', who would assemble in the Anubhava Mantapa. They were all included in my painting, whose design is influenced by the Chalukyan period," Khanderao says.

Khanderao has painted over 10,000 pieces of art through an illustrious lifetime of 80 years. Born on November 1, 1940, he grew up in a large family inclined to business and engineering. However, young Jagadevappa was interested in art since childhood, which was noticed by his teacher at Asifgunj Kannada Medium School.

Khanderao with his masterpiece that brings the wisdom of Basaveshwara's Anubhava Mantapa to life | NARAYANA JOSHI

While still in Class 6, Khanderao passed the lower drawing examination in Hyderabad, and in Class 8, he passed the intermediate grade examination in Sholapur. He appeared for the elementary painting and drawing examination in Bombay, which was a turning point in his life. Khanderao was deeply impressed by the discipline and creative ability of Maharashtra's artists. The learnings in Bombay left a deep impression on him, and he was specially inspired by the works of N S Bendre.

After completing a Diploma at the Sir JJ School of Art, Khanderao wished to pursue the Drawing Teacher Training Course, but had to return to Kalaburagi on his father's insistence. Nevertheless, his contribution to art flourished back home, initially at the institute he established, and later at the Department of Drawing and Painting at the Sharanabasaveswara Arts College.



Simplicity, commitment and talent have taken Khanderao to great heights.

Basavaraj Patil Sedam, former Rajya Sabha member

Today, as an artist, Khanderao is extremely versatile, having explored both technique and creativity in his works, including landscapes, portraits, abstracts, drawings, still-life and paintings that focus on mythology, folk culture and compositions, in both oil and watercolour. He participated in the SAARC art camp in 1985, where his technique in abstraction was appreciated, while his manner of achieving transparency of colours in oil continues to be recognised. He was also Chairperson of Karnataka Lalitkala Academy.

On art and education, Khanderao feels dependence on technology without mastering basic skills is detrimental. "It is imperative to learn and devote time for only fundamentals during foundation years. This would help form a strong base and develop visual strength in any form of creative work," he says.

Meanwhile, the painting of Anubhava Mantapa, which was completed in January this year, is likely to grace the wall of Lok Sabha, since the Speaker has consented. "My painting getting a place on the wall of Parliament would be a great moment in my life," he says.

Rakhi Post bonds brothers, sisters and jawans

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

THE Karnataka Postal Department's online Rakhi Post service is set to help 1,990 sisters send Rakhi to their brothers, including 99 soldiers at the Ladakh border. To ensure all rakhis are delivered by Monday, staff across the country will work on Sunday.

The Rakhi Post was launched on July 26 and closed on August 30. The response in just five days has been heartening, S Rajendra Babu, Post Master General, Bengaluru Region, told TNSE. "Due to Covid-19 and a reluctance to step out to shop, the service has proved useful. We plan to launch similar gift or parcel services for other festivals," he said.

"All the Rakhis purchased by the department were sold. Even after the service was closed, we kept getting calls from customers requesting its extension. But the deliveries need to be done and so we had to close it," the PMG said.

There were teething problems pertaining to payment. "Those booking a Rakhi had to leave the home page to make payment through their personal banking. In future, we will introduce an option to make payment through UPI or apps on the page," Babu said.

Babu Srinivas, a postal assistant, is very happy. "For the last 15 years, my sister (who lives abroad) has been sending me Rakhis. She would transfer the amount to my mother's account to make the purchase and hand it over. My sister was worried as she did not want my mother, who is 70, to step out. My sister was delighted to hear about such a link. My rakhi reached my doorstep after she booked it online," he said.

Chief Postmaster General, Karnataka Postal Circle, Sharda Sampath, said that the step to send messages in different vernacular languages was received very well by customers.

BBMP officials analyse ground situation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

AS the number of Covid cases rises in the city, top officials of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) have been visiting several wards to analyse the ground situation. BBMP commissioner N Manjunath Prasad visited Ward 18—Radhakrishna Temple—to speak to volunteers.

"He interacted with all the officers, volunteers, booth-level workers and asked about the difficulties they are facing," said corporator of the ward, M Anand. The ward has recorded 60 cases.

Earlier, Lokesh M, senior BBMP officer and in-charge of contact tracing, visited Chickpet and held a meeting regarding Covid management, fever clinics, surveillance and containment among other issues.

With August being a month of festivals, the BBMP commissioner has advised citizens to celebrate indoors. Public celebrations could increase the number of cases if not supervised well, BBMP officials said.

If anyone has any symptoms, such as a fever, cough, cold or difficulty in breathing, they should call the Apthamitra helpline (14410) so that they may be tested and quarantined immediately if needed, the commissioner said.

Covid scare spooks IISc students

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

STUDENTS at the Indian Institute of Science are worried about the Covid-19 outbreak on the campus. What is worrying more is that there is no clarity on the scale of the outbreak.

While there are reports that 44 tested positive on the campus, a number of departments and a hostel were sealed down, K V S Hari, Registrar, neither confirmed nor denied it.

However, he told The New Sunday Express that the institute had about 500 students returning to the campus. Those who returned followed quarantine guidelines.

The institute has not stopped the re-entry of students and those in their final year of research programme were sent a personalised letter to opt to return.

Returning is not mandatory and needs the approval of the research adviser, Hari said, adding that many students can do their work remotely and have chosen to do so.

A resident of the campus told TNSE about the "lack of transparency by the administration", and is now left with no option but leave for home.

"There is no consistency between the emails sent by the registrar and the numbers reported by wardens or even media," the resident said.

The Registrar said the institute is "transparent with the community and that is our primary responsibility."

The institute is looking at conducting the first semester of the 2020-21 session online. The new academic year will face a delay, Hari said, "We are waiting for UGC guidelines about the start of the next academic session," he said.

A TIME FOR PRAYER

Devotees offer prayers at Masjid-e-Eidgah Bilal on Bakrid, on Bannerghatta Road, in Bengaluru, on Saturday | EXPRESS

EXPRESS READ

BEL gets new director of finance

Bengaluru: Dinesh Kumar Batra took charge as the director (finance) of Navratna defence PSU, Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), on Saturday. Batra, an alumnus of Harcourt Butler Technical University (HBTU), Kanpur, joined BEL in Ghaziabad in 1984. In a career spanning over three-and-a-half decades, he served the company in various capacities in Delhi, Pune and Bengaluru, a statement from the PSU said. Prior to this, he was general manager of BEL's Pune unit. Batra helped the company move into the electro-explosive segment.

Wanted: Building for assembly session

Maintaining social distancing won't be feasible due to the seating arrangement in both the Houses

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @Bengaluru

THE State government is looking for a big auditorium or an appropriate space, including private ones, that can accommodate 500 people to conduct the assembly session in September. If it chooses a private building, it will be for the first time that the government will hold the session in such a facility.

The need to maintain social distancing will not be feasible due to the seating arrangement in both the Houses at Vidhana Soudha where assembly sessions are conducted. With a sharp increase in Covid-19 cases in Bengaluru, it is not safe to conduct the session there as a large number -- 224 MLAs, 75 MLCs, officials and the media -- attend it.

Ever since Suvarna Vidhana Soudha was inaugurated in Belagavi in 2012, winter sessions were conducted there. Otherwise, sessions are held at Vidhana Soudha.

In March, as per the State government's appeal, the Assembly Speaker and the Council Chairman had to cut down the session by a few days. Under Article 174(1) of the Constitution, it mandates that there should not be a gap of more than six months between sessions. Hence, it is obligatory for the State government to conduct the session before September-end.

Speaking to *The New Sunday Express*, Speaker Vishveshwara Hegde Kageri said that meetings were held with Law and Parliamentary Minister J C Madhuswamy, Chief Secretary T M Vijay Bhaskar and other assembly staff in this regard.

"As per rules, we have to conduct the session in September, we cannot postpone it. We are considering if the public gallery can be used. But since numbers are large, we may require a bigger space. We are looking for a big auditorium,'' he said.

> We are looking at various options. In Vidhana Soudha, the assembly gallery is bigger, but we need to check if we can accommodate all while maintaining social distancing
>
> Speaker Vishveshwara Hegde Kageri

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Madhuswamy said they were getting many suggestions like having an online session. "We are looking at various options. In Vidhana Soudha, the assembly gallery is bigger, but need to check if we can accommodate all while maintaining social distancing. The Council gallery is ruled out as it is too small. This issue of space was discussed in the previous cabinet meet. We might look for a bigger hall,'' Madhuswamy said.

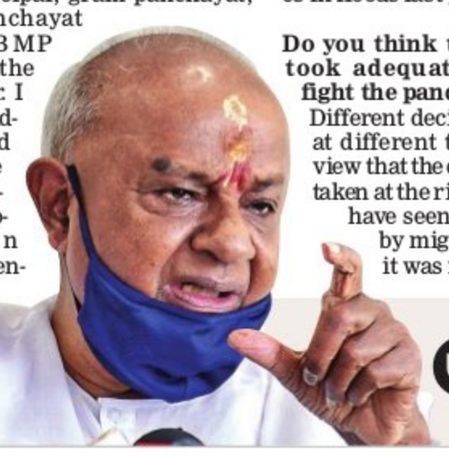
SUNDAY INTERVIEW

NOT ENOUGH PREPARATIONS MADE TO FIGHT COVID: GOWDA

RAMU PATIL @Bengaluru

AMID a surge in Covid cases in the state, political activities have gained momentum over the last few weeks. The ruling BJP has revamped its state unit, the Congress has become active under D K Shivakumar and former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda too has stepped up to reinvigorate his party. The 87-year-old JDS supremo has decided to even tour the state once the Covid situation improves. In an interview with *TNSE*, Gowda spoke about his plans to strengthen the party, government's fight against the pandemic, Assam floods and other issues. Excerpts.

You asked JDS leaders to reconnect with voters. Has the JDS started poll preparations?
No. B S Yediyurappa's government will be there. We are only preparing for municipal, gram panchayat, zilla panchayat and BBMP polls in the next year. I have decided to spend more time in office and focus on strengthening the party. I will tour the state after the situation improves. I have been meeting party workers and have called a meeting of leaders on August 4 to discuss holding a protest against the state government for promulgating anti-farmer and anti-labour ordinances.



After Shivakumar was made KPCC chief, that party has become aggressive. Your views?
They are doing their work and I will continue to do mine. Why should I be bothered about what they are doing?

CM Yediyurappa completed one year in office. How do you rate his government's performance?
They have not done anything, and on top of it, they released a book on government's achievements. They have not even given funds to the people who lost houses in floods last year.

Do you think the government took adequate measures to fight the pandemic?
Different decisions were taken at different times. There is a view that the decisions were not taken at the right time. All of us have seen difficulties faced by migrant workers, and it was not properly managed. Timely action was not taken and I don't know if people received financial assistance. We have not made adequate preparations to prevent Covid spread. Look at what other countries have done.

What prompted you to talk about Assam floods and seek Centre's attention?
I know the situation in northeastern states. I had inspected those areas and sanctioned a bridge, had decided to build retaining walls and also discussed permanent solutions to floods in Assam and Bihar. Unfortunately, nobody is thinking about permanent solutions.

What is your reaction to Rajasthan developments and Congress' accusation of BJP destabilising the elected government?
I can recollect many instances where both national parties destabilised elected governments. Everyone knows what happened in Karnataka when 20 MLAs were in Mumbai for two months. After that, the government (headed by HD Kumaraswamy) collapsed. I am not happy with the Governor's role in Rajasthan. When MLAs were sitting at Raj Bhavan, he should have convened the session and asked the CM to prove the majority.

> *Saddened by the demise of Amar Singh. He was a friendly person. We have lost a good leader today*
>
> H D Deve Gowda, former PM and JDS president

BJP rakes up Hublot watch, Siddu fumes

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

OPPOSITION leader Siddaramaiah has lashed out at the BJP for raking up the Hublot watch issue when he and his party sought accounts of Covid equipment purchases.

"The Hublot watch issue is a closed chapter as it has already been handed over to the government treasury. ACB had probed the expensive watch issue and given a clean chit as the watch was not purchased using government money," he said on Saturday..

"I had not purchased the watch from the looted money. The person who had gifted the watch has filed an affidavit," he added.

About the BJP asking him with what moral right he was sitting next to KPCC president D K Shivakumar (at their press meet) who had been to jail on corruption charges, Siddaramaiah maintained that the latter was booked with a "political motive".

He said the BJP has served him a notice for making corruption charges against the government. "We know what the notice is as I am also a lawyer. I am not scared of such notices," he said.

KSHRC case against govt over pandemic management

ENS @Bengaluru

THE Karnataka State Human Rights Commission (KSHRC) has registered a case against the State government over Covid-19 management, based on a complaint filed by senior Congress leader and Gadag MLA H K Patil.

Patil, who is also chairman of Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the State Legislature, alleged that thousands of people were facing difficulties in getting ambulances and beds in hospitals on time. He also said that Covid victims were being buried in an inhuman manner.

"It is the responsibility of the State government. But here, the government is not doing anything. There is corruption and that has resulted in bad services at government hospitals and Covid centres," he stated in a letter to the KSHRC.

"Many are dying due to lack of ambulances and beds. The media has been highlighting the issue. Health workers are not getting personal protective equipment (PPE) kits," Patil said. The KSHRC asked Patil to appear before it on July 28.

CRIME PATROL

History-sheeter stabbed to death

Bengaluru: A history-sheeter was stabbed to death by a gang of seven in Kumbalagodu on Friday night. The deceased Suneel (32), a resident of Bestamanahalli in Attibele, and his driver came out of Kadamba Hotel on Mysore Road after having dinner. When they were about to leave, the gang surrounded the car, pulled Suneel out, attacked him and fled. They stabbed him about 20 times. His driver escaped with injuries and passersby rushed him to a private hospital where he is recovering.

DR.S.R.CHANDRASEKHAR INSTITUTE OF SPEECH AND HEARING
A Unit of Bangalore Speech and Hearing Trust, (Aided by Lions Club of Bangalore East)
Hennur Road, Lingarajapuram, Bangalore-560084 Ph: 080 25470037, 25468470,
Mob: 88617 87315 Email: dr.srcish@gmail.com, www.speechear.org

Applications are invited for the following positions at Dr S. R. Chandrasekhar Institute of Speech & Hearing in Bengaluru. Qualifications as specified below. We are looking for dynamic professionals with a commitment and track record of Clinical/Academic/Research/Fund raising capabilities and an innovative approach.

DIRECTOR
Qualifications:
a) Doctorate degree in Speech & Hearing/Audiology /Speech-Language Pathology.
b) 15-20 years of experience in clinical services, academics and research in the area of Speech & Hearing.
c) Publications in National & International Journals.
d) Track record of leadership and fundraising capabilities, specifically in the domain of Speech & Hearing.
Salaries in the range of INR 1,00,000 to 1,25,000 per month (commensurate with qualifications and experience)

DEPUTY DIRECTOR
Qualifications:
a) Doctorate degree* in Speech & Hearing/Audiology /Speech-Language Pathology.
b) 10-15 years of experience in managing Clinical Services, Academics and Researh in the area of Hearing, Speech and Language disorders.
c) Publications in National & International Journals.
d) Track record of leadership and fundraising capabilities, specifically in the domain of Hearing, Speech and Language disorders.
Salaries in the range of INR 80,000 to 1,00,000 per month (commensurate with qualifications and experience)
*Holders of Masters Degrees in any of these fields are encouraged to apply and will be considered provided they meet b, c and d adequately.

Candidates who meet the above criteria are requested to send in hard copies of their applications along with Copies of supporting Documents to reach the above address before 31st August 2020. Shortlisted Candidates are expected to attend a Personal Interview at the above address in Bengaluru with Original Documents.

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Advt.No.70/Regr/Law Admissions - 2020-2021
ADMISSION NOTIFICATION : 2020-2021

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for admission to the following Law Degree Courses **(REGULAR)** offered in the **AFFILIATED GOVERNMENT LAW COLLEGES IN TAMIL NADU** namely **(i)** Chennai Dr.Ambedkar Government Law College, Pudhupakkam **(ii)** Chennai Dr.Ambedkar Government Law College, Pattaraiperumpudhur, **(iii)** Government Law College, Madurai **(iv)** Government Law College, Trichy **(v)** Government Law College, Coimbatore **(vi)** Government Law College, Tirunelveli **(vii)** Government Law College, Chengalpattu **(viii)** Government Law College, Vellore **(ix)** Government Law College, Villupuram, **(x)** Government Law College, Dharmapuri **(xi)** Government Law College, Ramanathapuram, **(xii)** Government Law College, Salem, **(xiii)** Government Law College, Namakkal, **(xiv)** Government Law College, Theni and in the Affiliated Private Law College - Saraswathy Law College, Tindivanam for the Academic Year 2020-2021.

Course	Duration	Qualifying Examination	Eligible Minimum Marks		APPLICATION FEE
			SC/ST	OTHERS	
B.A.LL.B	5 Years	HSC (10+2) / CBSE or any Other Examination recognized equivalent thereto.	40%	45%	The cost of the application is Rs.500/- (for SC(A) / SC(O) & ST Rs.250/-) Candidates seeking application by post should remit Rs.100/- in addition.
LL.B	3 Years	An Under Graduate Degree* (in any discipline)	40%	45%	

NOTE: **Mode of Selection:** Candidates will be selected purely on merit based on their performance in the qualifying examination and as per the rules of reservation prescribed by the Government of Tamil Nadu.
*Candidates who have completed 10+2+3 stream alone are eligible.
Applications can also be obtained **in person** from the **"The Chairman, Law Admissions 2020-2021, The Tamil Nadu Dr.Ambedkar Law University, 'Poompozhil', No.5, Dr. D.G.S. Dhinakaran Salai, Chennai – 600 028" and also from the Principals of the affiliated Law Colleges** by paying prescribed fee. General public are instructed to strictly follow the COVID-19 preventive measures and guidelines issued by the Government while getting application in person. Candidates seeking application by post are informed to send a requisition letter, mentioning the course to which they are willing to apply, along with requisite fee, to the Chairman, Law Admissions 2020-2021. **Online application forms are available in the University website – www.tndalu.ac.in.**
MODE OF PAYMENT OF APPLICATION FEE: **(1) The** candidates shall remit the prescribed application processing fee in any branch of **Indian Bank** through remittance challan which may be **downloaded from the University website or obtained from any one of the Affiliated Government Law Colleges. (2)** Application fee paid through other modes, by Cash/Demand Draft/Money Order/Cheque/Bank Pay Order etc., **will not be accepted. (3)** To avail concession on application fee, SC(O) / SC(A) / ST candidates belonging to Tamil Nadu shall submit an attested photocopy of the permanent community certificate.
Duly filled in application forms along with requisite self-attested enclosures must be submitted either through online itself or in person or by post **'The Chairman, Law Admissions, 2020-2021'**, The Tamil Nadu Dr.Ambedkar Law University, "Poompozhil", No.5, Dr. D.G.S. Dhinakaran, Salai, Chennai-600 028. Filled-in applications can also be submitted in person to the **Principal** of the Affiliated Law Colleges. **Candidates applying through online shall remit the fee through online gateway.**

Course	Date of opening of Online Applications	Date of issue of Applications for Offline Mode	Last date for issue & submission of filled-in application (Both Online & Offline)
5 year B.A.LL.B.	05.08.2020	10.08.2020	04.09.2020
3 year LL.B.	Dates will be announced later according to the directions of the Government		

Date : 02.08.2020
Place : Chennai
DIPR/643/DIS/2020
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REQUIRES

Sl.No.	Name of the Post
1.	Chief Project Consultant
2.	Project Engineer (Diving System)
3.	Project Engineer (Electrical)

The details are available in HSL Website : http://www.hslvizag.in
Last date for online submission : 13th Aug 2020
Advt. No. HR/ES(O)/0102/02/2020
Date : 2nd Aug 2020
General Manager (HR) (AC)

INDIAN INSTITUTES OF MANAGEMENT (IIMs)
Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Bangalore, Bodh Gaya, Calcutta, Indore, Jammu, Kashipur, Kozhikode, Lucknow, Nagpur, Raipur, Ranchi, Rohtak, Sambalpur, Shillong, Sirmaur, Tiruchirappalli, Udaipur, Visakhapatnam
Common Admission Test
CAT 2020

The Indian Institutes of Management will conduct a computer-based Common Admission Test 2020 (CAT 2020) on **November 29, 2020** in two sessions. Detailed information on CAT 2020 may be obtained from the CAT website.
CAT website: www.iimcat.ac.in
CAT 2020 is a pre-requisite for admission to various Post Graduate and Fellow programmes of IIMs. CAT 2020 scores are allowed to be used by listed non-IIM member institutions. A list of such institutions is provided on the CAT website. IIMs have no role in the selection process of non-IIM institutions.
CAT 2020 ELIGIBILITY
Please refer to the detailed notification on the CAT website. **Applicants should note that mere fulfillment of the minimum eligibility criteria will not ensure consideration for shortlisting by IIMs.**
RESERVATIONS
Refer to the CAT website for information regarding reservation of seats for various categories of applicants. **No change in the category will be entertained after CAT registration; hence, the applicants are advised to pay attention while registering.**
REGISTRATION FEES
₹ 1000 for SC, ST and PwD category candidates.
₹ 2000 for all other categories of candidates.
Please note that a candidate needs to pay the registration fees only once, irrespective of the number of institutes he/she is applying for. Fees once paid cannot be refunded under any circumstances.

IMPORTANT DATES
Registration opens : **August 05, 2020 (10:00 am)**
Registration closes : **September 16, 2020 (5:00 pm)**
Admit card download : **October 28 – November 29, 2020**
Test Date : **November 29, 2020**
Result declaration : **Second week of January, 2021 (Tentative)**
TEST CENTRES
CAT will be conducted in test centres spread across around 156 test cities. Candidates will be given the option to select any six test cities in order of their preference.
DISCLAIMER
This advertisement is only intended to be an announcement for CAT 2020. For detailed information, rules and procedures regarding CAT and the admission process of various IIMs, candidates should visit the CAT website.
Any dispute concerning CAT 2020 would be subject to the jurisdiction of the competent Courts within the territorial jurisdiction of the City of Indore only.
IMPORTANT
Candidates must declare and maintain a valid and unique email account and a mobile phone number throughout the selection process.

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TRACKING COVID-19

Congress MLC Ivan D'Souza on Saturday announced on his Facebook page that he and his wife tested positive for coronavirus and are under home quarantine

3,860 NEW RECOVERIES

53,648 TOTAL RECOVERED

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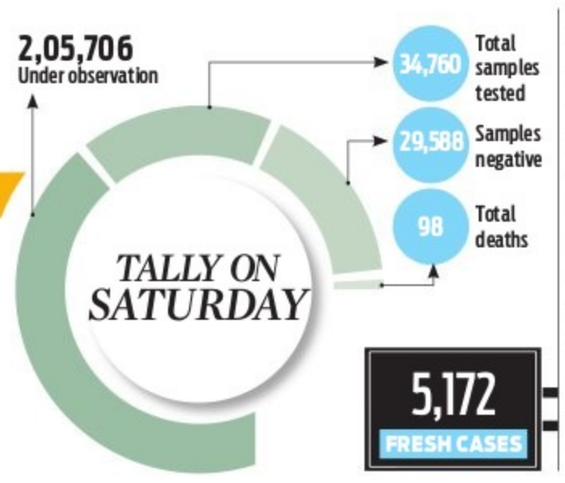
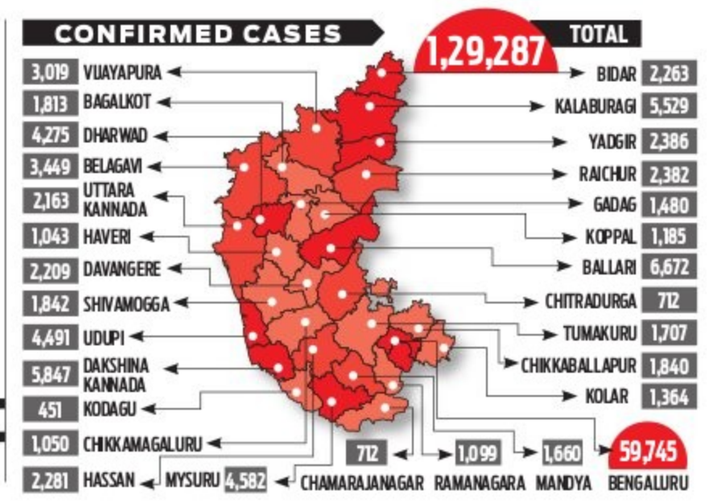
104 Arogya Sahayavani will function too





147 DIED AT HOME, 70 BROUGHT DEAD TO HOSPITALS IN JULY

Several people have not been able to access healthcare at the right time | EXPRESS

Stigma should be removed, Covid patients must be treated with more compassion, say doctors

RANJANI MADHAVAN @Bengaluru

EVEN as the state government is struggling to reduce the Covid-19 mortality rate and bring it down below 1 per cent, going by the statistics, it appears that several people have not been able to access healthcare at the right time and are succumbing to the virus.

In July alone, 147 people have died at their homes and 70 have been brought dead to hospitals. Dr Satyanarayana Mysore, HoD, Pulmonology, Manipal Hospital, said that the stigma attached to the virus is one of the major reasons for such deaths.

"Everybody is worried about objection from resident welfare associations, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike creating a commotion when coming to pick them up in ambulances, not finding a bed and also the welfare of their kids in their absence. Such stigma is leading to people not getting themselves tested in time. We need to work with more compassion and treat this as an everyday affair," said Dr Mysore, who is also part of the tele-ICU team set up by the state government to monitor high-risk Covid cases.

"I have observed extremely wealthy people opting for all tests except for coronavirus. The second reason for deaths at home or people being brought dead to the hospital is delayed presentation. Early diagnosis leads to better outcomes. The decision to stay at home cannot be taken by a patient and should be done with the concurrence of a government doctor, who will do risk stratification," he said.

Dr Trilok Chandra, who heads the Covid Critical Care Support Committee, said that 230 such deaths have occurred. "Such patients usually resort to self-medicating at home with over-the-counter drugs. They go to smaller clinics or nursing homes, and approach a hospital only when their situation worsens, but it would be too late by then. The deaths at home could be because of other comorbidities and patients test positive after death," he said.

He denied that such deaths are because of patients being denied treatment due to paucity of beds. "The bed situation has improved in Bengaluru, and that cannot be the reason. These deaths have happened in other parts of Karnataka too," he said.

CORONA APATHY

After denied admission, differently-abled girl dies of Covid

ENS @Chikkamagaluru

A 20-year-old differently-abled girl died at the district hospital here on Saturday and was later tested positive for Covid-19.

The victim was a final year B.Com student and a resident of Gowri Kaluve in the city. On Friday, she fell ill and her family took her to various private hospitals, but they refused to admit her, suspecting her to be Covid-positive. At last at KRS Hospital, the doctors advised the family to take her to the district hospital for a Covid test.

But the girl's condition deteriorated and she died minutes after being brought to the hospital. The doctors told the parents that the deceased tested positive for Corona and the body was cremated as per Covid guidelines.

But there was confusion as an earlier Covid test had come negative. The family too said that none of the family members had symptoms of coronavirus, and they did not know how the girl contracted it.

District surgeon Dr Mohan Kumar told TNSE that it was a technical error and action will be taken against the guilty after a detailed inquiry.

Dr Kaje's Ayurvedic trials to be stopped

RANJANI MADHAVAN @Bengaluru

THE Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI) has decided to suspend the trials of Ayurvedic tablets Bhoumya and Saathmya, which were started by Dr Giridhar Kaje, after he went to the media claiming the success of the trials without presenting it to the ethics committee.

The trials were evaluating the efficacy and safety of both the tablets as an add-on therapy to the standard care given to Covid-positive patients. The trials were held between June 7 and 25, but the Ayurvedic treatment was in addition to regular treatment. "We will suspend the trials as he should have presented it to the ethics committee first. It has been tried on only 10 patients, so it's not safe to say if it is effective or not. The tablets have to be validated in a larger trial before we can say it cures Covid," Dr C R Jayanthi, director and dean of BMCRI, told TNIE.

The trials were done at Victoria Hospital that comes under BMCRI.

A letter written by BMCRI to Dr Kaje on July 17 and signed by the chairman of ethics committee, read, "You are aware that the trial is still in its preliminary stage and no results have been placed before the ethics committee of BMCRI. Going to the public at this stage and claiming its success is unacceptable and amounts to overstepping of one's responsibility.

"You are aware that any disclosure of such sensitive information will have to be with clearances from various appropriate authorities... You are called upon to immediately clarify in the media of the factual position as otherwise we may be compelled to suspend the trial."

Dr Kaje, MD and Chief Physician, Prashanthi Ayurvedic Centre in Rajajinagar, said he saw the letter on social media. "It has been 15 days now, but the letter has not reached me. Why is it so? People went about advertising 'Go to Prashanthi Clinic for Covid treatment' and I clarified on my Facebook page that this is wrong information," he said.

"All 10 patients have been cured and I had just stated the fact. I did not make any false claims. We asked the government to allow us to conduct extended trials with 1,000 patients and are waiting for their response," he added.

110-yr-old from Chitradurga fights virus, discharged

G SUBHASH CHANDRA @ Chitradurga

SIDDAMMA, a 110-year-old Covid patient, is possibly the oldest to have survived the virus. She was discharged from the designated hospital in the city after she tested negative twice in 24 hours.

The woman, from Burujanahatti, showed mild symptoms on July 27, and was shifted immediately to a hospital nearby, where she responded well to treatment and was discharged on Saturday afternoon.

Doctors and nurses who took care of Siddamma gave her a farewell after she was discharged from a hospital in Chitradurga on Saturday | EXPRESS

Speaking to TNSE, Siddamma, who was terrified when she was first admitted to the Covid hospital, said, "I was taken in an ambulance to the hospital where people in masks came and checked on me and gave me medicines every few hours. Now, I'm feeling fine and am happy to be back home."

Talking about her time at the hospital, specifically the food, the centenarian said that she didn't enjoy the ganji (rice gruel) being served there. "I was better off eating ragi balls with sambar every day, but I had lost my sense of taste for about a week. I'm waiting to get back to my regular diet now."

Doctors who treated Sidamma said she is healthy and that her oxygen levels didn't dip throughout the course of her treatment. They added that she is the oldest patient to have been discharged from the hospital.

DEMANDING THEIR DUE

Nurses and other medical staff stage a protest outside Bowring Hospital demanding a hike in salaries on Saturday | SHRIRAM B N

NONE SPARED

Agriculture minister tests positive

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

AGRICULTURE Minister B C Patil said on Saturday that he has tested positive for Covid-19 and is under home quarantine in Bengaluru.

B C Patil

Patil said his wife, son-in-law and two others working in his house in Hirekerur have also tested positive.

In a video posted on social media, Patil said his family is asymptomatic, and that there is no need to panic.

Tourism Minister CT Ravi, Forest Minister Anand Singh, Mandya MP Sumalatha Ambareesh and several other politicians have recovered after testing positive.

Still no drop in Covid cases, tally now stands at 1.29 lakh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

AFTER horrid July that saw the Covid situation worsening, the first day of August too saw over 5,000 cases with the state reporting 5,172 positives, taking the tally to 1,29,287 positives on Saturday.

A sizable chunk of 47,947 cases are under investigation with the state government being unable to find the patients' contact or travel history. Of these, 12,604 cases are Influenza-like illness and 2,698 are Severe Acute Respiratory Illness.

Bengaluru has been conducting the highest number of tests in the state, with 8,571 per million in the last 10 days.

After Bengaluru with 1,852 fresh cases, Mysuru had 365 cases, Ballari 269, Kalaburagi 219 and Belagavi (219).

There were 98 deaths, taking the state's toll to 2,412. The oldest patient to die on Saturday was a 96-year-old man from Shivamogga, and the youngest was a 34-year-old SARI patient from Dharwad.

The mortality rate is still above 1 per cent and stands at 1.87 per cent. As many as 602 patients are declared high-risk and are admitted to ICUs. Of them, 338 are from Bengaluru.

The recovery rate, which stands at 41.52 per cent, is slowly picking up, with 3,860 patients discharged on Saturday.

COVID WATCH

Will address nurses' demands, tweets minister

With nurses of the Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute holding a protest wearing black bands and PPE kits since Friday, Medical Education Minister Dr K Sudhakar took to Twitter to address their demands. "I will take action to fulfil your demands as soon as possible. I will discuss with the authorities immediately. Keeping everything in view, I promise the government will meet your demands," Sudhakar tweeted. Among other demands, the nurses want the New Pension Scheme to be implemented, and to have access to the Karnataka Government Insurance Department -- under which is the Jyothi Sanjeevani Scheme, which provides cashless treatment for 449 identified surgeries in hospitals, to state government employees and their dependents. ENS

Classmate may be behind girls' photos on porn sites

PEARL MARIA DSOUZA @Bengaluru

AFTER two people were arrested in connection with a case of morphed photographs of girl students from various colleges of Bengaluru surfacing on porn sites, it has come to light that a classmate of the victims may be responsible.

Meanwhile, the Bangalore Student Community (BSC), a forum that fights for student-related issues, on Saturday met Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai who guided them to Sandip Patil, Joint Commissioner of Police, Bengaluru. BSC submitted a written complaint to Patil, and also launched a social media campaign to alert girl students.

The culprits had taken the photos from the social media accounts of these girls, morphed and posted them on porn sites.

"It is important to ensure the safety of girls on social media platforms. The focus should be on creating a safe environment online and offline for us," said Medini Mothay, a student, said.

"This is one of the most disturbing situations. Today, the victims are 19-20-year olds. What is the guarantee that such an incident won't happen to 12-13-year-old children? It is time we not only stand for what is right, but also put in our best to set things right," said another student Harshita.

The students appreciated that the police contacted the website and got the photos deleted. Sandip Patil said, "We found out that the motive was a failed love affair."

OLD AND THE NEW

With lockdown easing, biggest challenge is balancing duties: Pant

BALA CHAUHAN @Bengaluru

NEW City Police Commissioner **Kamal Pant** has taken over at a time when Unlock-3 has started and Sunday and night curfew have been lifted. Over 1,200 City police personnel have been infected by Covid-19 and there is a sense of fatigue in the police personnel, who have been on frontline Covid duties since March.

In his first interview soon after he took over as the City top cop, Pant said with the lockdown easing, the "biggest challenge is to work out a balance between deploying police personnel for Covid management duties and handling the day-to-day police functions."

"With the easing of lockdown, life will slowly return to normal and normal policing will have to start to address crime and law and order situations. We will have to review deployment protocols as per the requirement," he added.

Pant said that some of the core police functions like issuing of summons or serving warrants will have to be done online to ease the pressure on the police. "We may also deploy Home Guards to assist the police," he said.

The unprecedented and long-drawn call for Covid duty and fear of contracting the virus has had a toll on the mental health of the police personnel, who are also facing lot of pressure and anxiety from their families.

"The morale of the police has to be kept high for them to perform well. We need to address their fears and issues. There are challenges ahead but we will find solutions," added Pant.

A roller-coaster ride, says Rao

BALA CHAUHAN @Bengaluru

FORMER Bengaluru City police commissioner **Bhaskar Rao** said it was a "roller coaster ride" for him since the time he assumed office on August 2, 2019. He has now been posted as ADGP-Internal Security Division.

"Three days after I assumed office, the Central Government abrogated Article 370 which gave special status to Jammu & Kashmir. There was a huge representation from Kashmiri students in the city. We met them and assuaged their fears. In September, there were massive rallies in the city protesting against the arrest of present KPCC president D K Shivakumar," Rao recalled.

"In November last year, there was largescale police bandobast in Bengaluru on the eve of the Supreme Court verdict in the Ram Janam Bhoomi case. The same month, anti-CAA and NRC protests started in the City, which saw an unprecedented gathering of over two lakh Muslims at Khuddus Saheb Idgah on December 22. It passed off without a single incident. The protests continued till the end of February and the Covid lockdown brought on unprecedented demands on the police," said the former commissioner.

"I realised that if I have to get work done from my constables, I will have to befriend and empathise with them. I personally contacted around 5,000 constables and addressed their grievances. We gave them due leaves; told them that they have to work as if they were the police commissioner of their area," said Rao.

He added that his policy of WHAM (winning hearts and minds) adopted by his men was the reason why Bengaluru didn't see a spike in the crime graph.

Water resource Minister Ramesh Jarkiholi will be meeting Union Jalshakthi minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in New Delhi on Sunday. A release from Jarkiholi's office said he will be in Delhi till Tuesday where he will be meeting the Union minister, legal and technical experts

NOVEL ART

Sridhar, a popular Bengaluru-based artisan sells almost 20,000 Ganesha idols every year. This year, he has made 16-piece Dr Ganesha sets, including a surgeon Ganesha operating a patient. He took two months to build the set | SHRIRAM BN

11 killed after crane crashes in Vizag port

10 staffers were testing crane's operational efficiency

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Visakhapatnam

In yet another mishap in Visakhapatnam, 11 people were killed when a 70-tonne jetty crane collapsed at the Hindustan Shipyard Ltd (HSL) on Saturday. The accident, said to be the first such mishap in HSL since its inception 75 years ago, occurred when a load test of the to-be-commissioned crane was being conducted.

Ten people were testing the crane's operational efficiency, and one person was in the vicinity when it came toppling down around 11.30 am. Visakhapatnam Collector VV Vinay Chand, who visited the spot, said the cabin and base of the massive crane snapped when it was being tested with dead weight. Ten people died on the spot, and one died on the way to hospital.

Two years ago, the jetty crane, with a 70-tonne capacity, was installed by Mumbai-based Anupam Cranes, but not commissioned, as the company backed out before the crane could be operationalised. Later, HSL entrusted the task to three contractors - Green Field, Lead Engineers and Squad-7.

On Saturday, when a team of employees from HSL and three contract firms was load-testing the crane, it tilted and toppled towards the north of Slipway 4 on the crane track. Four of the victims were HSL employees, including a supervisor, while the rest worked for the contract agencies, the Collector said after

inspecting the accident site. The bodies were retrieved and sent for a post-mortem examination.

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy spoke to the Collector about the incident and directed him and Visakhapatnam city Commissioner of Police RK Meena to take follow-up action.

While HSL constituted an internal committee, headed by its director (operations) to inquire into the mishap, the Collector formed an independent committee of engineers, comprising heads of the departments of civil, mechanical and electrical engineering of Andhra Engineering College and a superintending engineer, to investigate the cause of the accident.

The Malkapuram police reached the spot after the accident and registered a case. On learning about the accident, relatives of the staff working on the site rushed to HSL and got into a heated argument with the authorities when they were not allowed in the shipyard.

KSHEERA BHAGYA SCHEME

Schoolchildren to get milk powder delivered at home

PEARL MARIA DSOUZA @Bengaluru

TO maintain the nutrition levels of children in government and aided schools, the Karnataka government has directed the task force constituted to handle Covid-19 situation at the gram panchayat level to supply milk powder along with the ration to beneficiaries of Ksheera Bhagya scheme.

Ever since the Covid pandemic broke out, there were concerns over depleting nutrition levels of government children, majority of whom are from economically weaker sections. The scheme will cover 64 lakh students from both government and aided schools across the state.

Managing Director, Karnataka Milk Federation, B C Sateesh told The New Sunday Express that KMF is already delivering whole milk powder (WMP) to over 39.5 lakh Anganwadi children, six months to six-year-old. Each child gets 15 gm of milk powder every day that costs the federation Rs 4.01. Every day, 3 lakh litres of milk is turned into 35 metric tonnes of milk powder to cater to these children, he said.

Now, with the scheme being rolled out to students from class one to 10 across 55,683 aided and government schools, Sateesh said that 64 lakh more youngsters will benefit.

Normally, 18 gm of powder, which costs Rs 5.09, is given to each student under the Ksheera Bhagya scheme at their schools. But as schools have not opened since May because of the pandemic, students have been missing out on nutrition. Fat in the milk is about 3.5 percent, which is the source of nutrition for these children. Students will be given half-a-kilo of milk powder per month, for two months, and the KMF is likely to get the order soon, sources said.

The government has asked teachers to assist the task force in distributing the milk powder. The government is trying to rope in autorickshaws that were used to make public announcements on Covid to distribute the essentials to beneficiaries.

Gadag woman gets mangalsutra back

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Gadag

THE woman who had pawned her mangalsutra for buying a television for her children's televised classes, got it back after many people came forward to help her. District incharge minister C C Patil sent a cheque of Rs 20,000 to Kasturi and asked her to get the mangalsutra back on Friday evening. Congress MLA Zameer Ahmed Khan sent his followers from Hubballi to her house with ₹50,000 cash.

Kasturi Chalawadi was forced to sell her mangalsutra for buying a television her children as their school lessons are being telecast. Her selfless act caught the attention of many.

Some organisations have assured Kasturi of any kind of help. The district child protection cell has said it will give her children Rs 1,000 each for three years.

Gadag district Congress workers and ZP president Rajugouda Kenchanagoudar gave her Rs 20,000 and two school bags.

Kasturi said, "I did not expect to get my mangalsutra back so soon. I had decided to save up and get it back after a year-and-a-half. I got it back thanks to the help I received. My husband and children are very happy. I thank all the people who helped me."

Covid tests cross 2 million in Andhra

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Vijayawada

ANDHRA Pradesh has conducted more than 20 lakh tests for coronavirus - the fourth-highest in the country, after Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra. The state reached this milestone on Saturday morning, after testing 60,797 samples in the 24 hours ending at 9 am. The total number of samples tested stands at 20,12,573.

For the first time in recent weeks, more recoveries than new cases were reported. While 12,750 Covid-19 patients were discharged between Friday and Saturday, 9,276 people were found to be infected. In the same period, 58 people lost their lives to the virus.

NEP remains job- and market-oriented, says experts

PEARL MARIA DSOUZA @Bengaluru

EXPERTS are concerned about the National Education Policy's (NEP) departure from 'education' being a tool to develop democratic principles in young citizens. The document remains job/market-oriented, they say, while the purpose of education is to create a wholesome individual.

"If the foreign universities do come, it is naturally for profit. And we are providing the space for them. 'Grading' of universities/ institutes will never see the social relevance of that institute. For instance, an institute may play an important role in developing Kannada literature and language, which is a social aspect of education, but it would not be on par with plush private institutes, and would lose out on ranking. This ranking determines who gets autonomy to frame their own curriculum," said Subhankar Chakraborty, general secretary, Bharat Gyan Vigyan Samithi, Karnataka.

The policy will only widen the gap between the haves who can afford private education which will be expensive in nature with the foreign universities coming in, and the have-nots, said Niranjanaradhya V P, educationist.

'K'taka can emerge as global edu destination'

M R Doreswamy, advisor to the State Government on education reforms, on Saturday as hailed the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, as a historic development. "It is now the responsibility of the government to translate the innovations in NEP 2020 to affirmative action to prime the education system so the full potential of the new policy could be harnessed," he said. His recommendations to establish centres for international languages, technology-enabled pedagogy and emphasis on blended learning, among others, having found space in the NEP, Doreswamy said it is time to work out modules on implementing them on ground. He dubbed it as a historic opportunity for the state to ensure that all benefits of the NEP are harnessed to position Karnataka as a premier education destination in the national and global education ecosystems.

"The main aim of education is to have constitutional values at its core. But when the policy becomes job- and market-centric, it fails to bring in social value for a level playing field," he said.

The policy's failure to incorporate substantial suggestions by the citizens and educationists is a matter of concern, the experts said. Niranjanaradhya saw this as a departure from the 'democratic evolution' of a policy.

One of the major omissions in the draft is Rashtriya Shiksha Ayog, which would have been an oversight body to ensure that education is aligned with constitutional values, said Rishikesh B S, associate professor, Azim Premji University.

About the policy's claims to be 'multidisciplinary and holistic', Rishikesh said it's unclear whether the policy 'mandates' earning credits from multiple baskets of subjects or whether students will be given a 'choice' to select their subjects for these credits. In the former, we would be able to break from the rigidity of focussing on one discipline, a problem seen in pre-university education level today. But in the latter, we see only a loophole for the existing (mono-disciplinary) culture to continue, he said.

Another confusion is 'the percentage of GDP' being allocated for education, instead of 'percentage of government expenditure', Rishikesh said. The latter, which was used in the draft, would have been a much easier way to identify how much money would be finally spent on education instead of 'percentage of GDP' which is in the final policy, he said. This is because GDP is a combination of multiple components, of which government expenditure is just one.

Chakraborty said the suggested allocation of 6 per cent of GDP (State and Centre combined) is miniscule.

Experts unanimously expressed concern over the neglect of Right To Education in the final policy. The current extension of free and compulsory education to children of ages 3 to 6 years and 15 to 18 years looks vague, said Niranjanaradhya. "It only seems to be added because of India's international obligation towards United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. For such a decision to be truly implemented, a commitment to amend Article 21 A is required, and it's missing in the policy document," he said.

Over 500 Jallikattu bulls sold

Ariyalur: IN 2017, the entire State came forward to keep the traditional sport of Jallikattu alive. It was important to preserve the native and indigenous varieties, argued activists. Three years down the line, hit by the pandemic-induced lockdown, several farmers in the delta districts are selling their prized jallikattu bulls, at times even for meat, as they are unable to maintain these animals.

Sources say that in Ariyalur alone, 500 bulls were sold for meat in the last few days.

WILL ENSURE POLICING IS PROFESSIONAL, SAYS PANT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I will also ensure that the policing system is very professional and transparent while being people-centric. Policing services will be made available beyond the force's strength and capacity," the new police commissioner explained.

Kamal Pant, the 36th police commissioner of the city, replaced his batchmate Bhaskar Rao on Saturday. Both officers are of the 1990 batch of the Indian Police Service. Pant, who hails from Uttarakhand, was Additional Commissioner of Police (law and order) in 2014.

Speaking to reporters, Pant recalled the services and sacrifices of policemen in the line of Covid duty. "They have done an excellent job in handling the situation," he said while wishing speedy recovery to all infected policemen.

New Bengaluru Police Commissioner Kamal Pant takes charge in Bengaluru on Saturday | SHRIRAM BN

Teary-eyed Rao thanks Bengalureans

Outgoing police commissioner Bhaskar Rao was emotional and teary eyed when handing over charge. He thanked Bengalureans for cooperating with the department during his tenure. "Dearest Bangalureans, Handed over charge of our City Police. From bottom of my heart, my gratitude to each and every citizen for unstinting support, cooperation, tolerance and help to Me and Team BCP in the roller coaster ride since August last, Ever remain your friend," he tweeted.

EXPRESS READ

Conmen duped TN doctor of ₹2.1 crore

Madurai: Scam operators pretending to be representatives of overseas mask manufacturers, cheated the owner of a private hospital of ₹2.1 crore over a period of two months starting May. The incident came to light the 44-year-old doctor approached the District Crime Branch (DCB) with a complaint, according to sources. A Hyderbad-based middleman going by the name, Uday Shankar Parupalli, approached the doctor on May 22 and offered him help to purchase N95 mask in bulk from a Kyrgyzstan-based company at reduced price. Lured by the offer, the doctor placed an order for 2 lakh masks. ENS

Government of India
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
NUCLEAR FUEL COMPLEX
ECIL Post, Hyderabad - 500 062

NOTICE INVITING TENDER – E-Tendering (Two Part)
NIT No. NFC/IR&W/MTS/2019

Name of the Work:	Providing necessary assistance in Multi Tasking works in NFC
Estimated Cost	Rs. 1,40,23,780/- (Rupees One Crore Forty Lakhs Twenty Three Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty Only)
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 2,80,476/- (Rupees Two Lakh Eighty Thousand Four Hundred and Seventy Six Only)
Period of Contract	12 Months from the date of issue of Work Order
Dates of availability of Tender documents for viewing, downloading.	From 03-08-2020 to 23-08-2020 (21:00 Hrs.) on website www.tenderwizard.com/DAE.
Last date and time of closing of online submission of tender.	25-08-2020 (21:00 Hrs.)

For further details, please visit website www.tenderwizard.com/DAE for viewing of Tender documents, purchase of tender documents in Excel format and for participation in tendering. NIT is also available on website www.nfc.gov.in for viewing only.

ODISHA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Plot No 4, Chunokoli, Shailashree Vihar, Bhubaneswar- 751021
Phone: +91 [674] 272 1048 / 272 1049 | Facsimile: +91 [674] 272 1053 / 272 1057
email: oriercnesco@gmail.com

NOTICE

FOR SELECTION OF BIDDER FOR PURCHASE OF UTILITY OF NORTH EASTERN ELECTRICITY SUPPLY UTILITY OF ODISHA LIMITED (NESCO) ENGAGED IN DISTRIBUTION AND RETAIL SUPPLY OF POWER IN THE DISTRIBUTION CIRCLES OF BALASORE, BHADRAK, BARIPADA, JAJPUR AND KEONJHAR IN THE STATE OF ODISHA (PRESENTLY OPERATING AS NESCO UTILITY) UNDER SECTION 20 OF THE ELECTRICITY ACT, 2003.

This is to inform to all the bidders to note the following change in the dates in the bid process schedule provided under **Clause 4.9 of the RFP.**

Sl.	Event	Date/ Location
1.	Publication of Notice to Bidders	29-Jun-19
2.	Start Date of Sale of RFP	01-Jul-19
3.	Last Date of Submission of Queries/ Information Required by Bidders	07-Sep-19
4.	Pre-Bid Meeting/ Investor Meet	17-Sep-19
5.	Issue of Clarifications, Addendum/ Revised RFP (if required)	15-Nov-19
6.	Issue of Revised RFP	08-Jul-20
7.	Last Date of Submission of Queries/ Information Required by Bidders	15-Jul-20
8.	Pre-Bid Meeting	22-Jul-20
9.	Issue of Amendments/ Final RFP Document(s)	31-Jul-20
10.	Last Date of sale of RFP Document(s)	08-Sep-20
11.	Bid Due Date	14-Sep-20, 4:00 PM
12.	Opening of Qualification Proposals	To be communicated separately to Bidder(s) as per RFP provisions.
13.	Opening of Technical Proposals	
14.	Opening of Financial Proposals	
15.	Issuance of LOA	

New prospective bidders willing to purchase the RFP may refer to the earlier notice dated **29th Jun 2019** in this regard.

The bidders are advised to visit **www.orierc.org** from time to time to keep themselves updated.

Sd/-
SECRETARY

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
IRRIGATION DIVISION, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
No.1262/PW/EEI/ID/JE(P)-33/2020 - 2021 Puducherry, the 01.08.2020

SHORT PRESS NOTICE

Invitation for Request for Proposal (RFP) through online (e-tender)
On behalf of the President of India RFP (e-Tenders) are invited from eligible applicants for the following works :

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Name of Work	Approximate Estimated Cost (₹)
1	Tender No. 14/PW/ IRRN/ 2020-2021	RFP for Annual Maintenance contract for Desilting, cleaning and maintenance of PWD Major Drains / Canals Lying South of Bussy Street, MMA Salai and NH 45A including Grand Canal and Uppanar Drain in Puducherry Urban agglomeration areas (PUAA), Puducherry for the Period ending upto 31st October 2020 - (III Call).	₹.1,05,70,238/-
2	Tender No. 15/PW/ IRRN/ 2020-2021	RFP for Annual Maintenance contract for Desilting, cleaning and maintenance of PWD Major Drains / Canals Lying North of Bussy Street, MMA Salai and NH 45A excluding Grand Canal and Uppanar Drain in Puducherry Urban agglomeration areas (PUAA), Puducherry for the Period ending upto 31st October 2020 - (III Call)	₹.73,68,803/-

For further details please refer to the website https://pudutenders.gov.in
No.123/DIP/AD(Press)/2020-21 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

NIAB
राष्ट्रीय पशु जैव प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान
National Institute of Animal Biotechnology
An autonomous Institute of Department of Bio-Technology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Govt of India
Opp. Journalist Colony, Near Gowlidoddy, Extended Q City Road, Gachibowli, Hyderabad, Telangana, India - 500 032.
www.niab.res.in | Tel : +91 40 2312 0115.

Ph.D Admission Program (Online Interviews)

NIAB invites applications for admission to its Ph.D program from highly motivated students for the upcoming 2020 session. NIAB is an autonomous institution of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India, leading in basic and translational research on animal health and productivity and human-animal interface. The institute provides opportunities for pursuing cutting edge research using advanced technologies in frontier areas of science such as development of next-generation vaccines, immunology, genomics, gene and protein engineering, host-pathogen interactions, disease diagnostics, nanotechnology, bioinformatics, nutrition, reproductive biotechnology, stem cells, gene editing & transgenic technology for humanized mouse models and farm animals, zoonosis and One Health. Interested candidates who meet the eligibility criteria may apply online in the prescribed form, details provided in our online portal **www.niab.res.in** or **www.niab.org.in.** Please contact **academic@niab.org.in** for any queries. The application portal will be closed on **16.08.2020.**
Contact address: **National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NIAB),** Gachibowli, Hyderabad-500032. Tel: +91 40 2312 0115. Sd/- Director

The more you live, the less you die

Janis Joplin

DOORDARSHAN'S TRIBUTE TO THE LORD

OPINION

JAWHAR SIRCAR
Writer is former CEO of Prasar Bharati

A foreign broadcaster wanted to know what I felt, as the former head of Prasar Bharati, about Doordarshan preparing to telecast live the proceedings of the groundbreaking ceremony for a Ram mandir at Ayodhya. I replied evasively as I was schooled in service, but this issue of a supposedly neutral and secular public broadcaster covering an event glorifying one religion is quite touchy. Doordarshan could have been chosen as it has proven multi-camera skills — it coordinates 'simultaneous feed' from 50 cameras on Republic Day parade in New Delhi. While the local stations of Akashvani and Doordarshan do 'live coverage' of many important religious festivals, some of which are of other religions at the national level, DD has been very selective, because of its mandate. Even so, it does cover Jagannath's Rath yatra at Puri and several Kumbh melas as 'live programmes' — more as great human congregations — not as the 'triumph' of one religion.

Yet, we hardly notice that it is the same Doordarshan that flagged off this battle for Ayodhya — inadvertently or otherwise. Most of us do not recall that Congress had won a landslide victory after Indira Gandhi's assassination on 31st October 1984. There is no doubt the Doordarshan, the state-owned monopoly, played a big role by relaying heart-wrenching scenes of Mrs Gandhi's last journey. But by the end of 1986, Rajiv Gandhi was being mauled over the Bofors guns purchase deal. This is when his information and broadcasting minister Ajit Panja decided to telecast religion over television — even though the government was avowedly secular. DD began telecasting Ramayan from 25th January 1987 and the serial became unimaginably popular. Hinduism was actually 'defrosted' from cold preachings that were anyway far less rigorous or mandatory than most other religions. But this was the first time that even the unlettered came to know every detail of the two televised epics that occupied centre-stage in India till Gods, sages and warriors came on miraculously alive before enthralled audiences as Ramanand Sagar and BR Chopra weaved sheer magic on DD's screen. This was, in fact, a quantum jump since medieval regional poets had re-created their local versions in a manner that the masses could relate to, almost a millennium after Valmiki's Sanskrit original.

By 31st July 1988 when Ramayan's 78 episodes were over, the golden harvest of nuevo religious fervour was swaying in the wind, ever so temptingly. The Congress, that had tampered with the delicate secular balance, could hardly visualise what force it had unleashed and started televising the Mahabharat from 2nd October 1988. It was the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) under LK Advani that went in to reap the crop and selected a nondescript muffasil town, Ayodhya, as the epicentre. It was in the heart of Gangetic Hindi-Hindu belt and the fact that the Muslim invader Babur's name was embedded on a mosque built over the "very spot where Ram was born" was, indeed, a godsend.

In January 1989, Advani heated the political atmosphere by declaring that his supporters would hold the holy stone-laying ceremony at that spot just ten months later. Lakhs of Hindu pilgrims assembled at the Prayag Kumbh mela roared in support, while the Babri Masjid Action Commitee aroused Muslim opposition to this. The Congress, however, congratulated itself for telecasting the most successful epic serial on the secular state's own network. In November 1989, Advani performed his shilanyas of Ram Mandir at Ayodhya in the midst of riotous excitement, and instantly, the BJP's tally of Lok Sabha seats went up to 85 from the earlier 2 that it had secured in the first elections it faced in1984.

Foreign scholars like Christophe Jaffrelot, David Ludden, Philip Lutgendorf and James Hegarty have written about the tremendous impact that these TV shows had on the hitherto-uninvolved Hindu citizenry, but somehow this nexus has not excited mainstream Indian academics.

By 1990, Rajiv Gandhi was out but Doordarshan went on delivering 'religious shots' week after week with Mahabharat that telecast 94 episodes. We will not dwell on Advani's Ratha-Yatra that followed, igniting riots all over except to mention that the BJP won even more seats (120) in 1991. Left and secular forces went on a highly academic overdrive questioning Ram's very existence, which did not endear them to the recharged Hindu masses and historians produced evidence to prove that there was no mandir under or around Babri Masjid. But who was listening? We will not recall the blood that was let out after the destruction of the Babri Masjid on 6th December 1992. In any case, the highest court has painstakingly dissected its own evidence and handed over the disputed plot in Ayodhya to the Hindus. The same urgency and enthusiasm was hardly evident in punishing those that the court itself had sternly reprimanded for destroying Babri Masjid. It is now all done and dusted.

Doordarshan moved on to eulogising whichever government came to power and the paymaster decided what better subjects to cover. And if an unforgiving regime has decided that the 'groundbreaking ceremony' for the proposed grand temple to Ram has to be covered for one community, at government expense, well — it has to be covered. After all, Narendra Modi had sailed to power in 2014 on the crest of a tsunami that was let loose just as a wave in Ayodhya, exactly 25 years ago.

VANDE BHARAT BEATS CHINA, COVID

POINT OF VIEW

T J S GEORGE

INDIA'S view of, and dealings with, China are becoming curiouser and curiouser. Suddenly, we are told that dozens of Chinese apps have been banned. Reasons cited include security and privacy. How come these became issues only now? For long China, like all other topics, has been a provider of opportunities for our Prime Minister to display his showmanship; remember his donning South Indian veshti and angavastram for a meeting with Xi Jinping? All that is forgotten now.

About two months ago, our Government decided to put import restrictions on Chinese goods. More recently, some 200 proposals China had put forward for investment were held up for "security clearance". After the Ladakh clash that killed 20 Indian soldiers, these were seen as political - strategic moves. Why were economic realities never a factor in India's relations with China? Lazy India became dependent on hard-working China for even everyday items.

Consider the situation that developed as a result of this approach. Our smartphone market is dominated by China. The "Made in India" tag on some phones is a patriotic lie; it only means "assembled" in India. Radial tyres for trucks, power equipment, electronic components for the metros in our big cities, all come from China. Why? Even if this is understandable to some extent, why is it that our Ganesh idols have to be imported from China? Why do our Diwali crackers come from China?

This rather humiliating situation should have woken up our leaders long ago. But there are some hard realities behind the slumber. Perhaps the most noteworthy is the cleverness with which China massaged our ego and diverted our attention. Look at its almost unnatural interest in Gujarat. Its investments in Gujarat in the last five years add up to an impressive Rs 43,000 crore. The Chinese association of small and medium enterprises has secured the contract for an industrial plant in Dholera smart city. Its Great Wall Motors Company has drawn up plans to invest ₹7,000 crore in a mega vehicle manufacturing plant in Gujarat. Other Chinese enterprises have also got involved in various projects in Gujarat.

Which leader from Gujarat would fail to notice with appreciation this level of interest by a foreign country? To drive it further home, the shrewd Chinese picked some politically important platforms for special consideration. Through popular smartphone companies like Oppo and Xiaomi, they gave ₹49 crore to PM-CARES fund which, as of now, is not subject to any auditing systems in the country. They also drew up plans to set up a Chinatown in Gujarat. (Chinatowns are cultural magnets with which the Chinese attract people across the world. The Chinatowns in New York and San Francisco are living bits of China's heart with which local people identify in toto.)

While Indians in London try to become as English as the English, the Chinese remain Chinese inside and outside. What is part of their culture they will never shed. Their notions about India with which they have problems of the bristling kind, are deeply entrenched. India has learned that China is a hard bargainer, unused to yielding even an inch as it expects others to yield a yard

Chineseness has another characteristic that is unique. While Indians in London try to become as English as the English, the Chinese remain Chinese inside and outside. What is part of their culture they will never shed. Their notions about India with which they have problems of the bristling kind, are deeply entrenched. India has learned that China is a hard bargainer, unused to yielding even an inch as it expects others to yield a yard.

Add to this, their latent disdain for Indians. They have disdain for all non-Chinese though they do not show it. With India they don't mind showing a bit of it. A recent Facebook post by a Chinese citizen was typical. "Even if Chinese people want to boycott Indian products, they can't really find many Indian goods. Indian friends, you need to have some things that are more important than nationalism."

Obviously. he was aware of India's dependence on China even for toys and drugs. So what do we do? Switching to the US will be a fool's errand. Our great nationalist leaders should ask why India is in a situation where it has to depend either on China or on the US to sustain itself. They are ever boastful about India's capabilities, but they don't seem to know how to promote domestic enterprise so that we don't have to be at the mercy of others for our everyday needs.

Perhaps, the mistake is with observers like me — that we do not see things in the right perspective. Perhaps, the only fact that matters is that our Prime Minister is strong and his Government is firmly entrenched, that he has got Covid and Galwan under his grip and that the sun is shining bright. A mild Vande Bharat shout will be in order.

TARGETING GANDHIS GIVES CONGRESS OXYGEN

POWER & POLITICS

PRABHU CHAWLA
prabhuchawla@newindianexpress.com
Follow him on Twitter @PrabhuChawla

THE Congress is dead. Long live the Congress. The ideological and institutional monopoly of the 130-year-old party is gone with the wind of change. Many Congressmen feel that its value system has passed the sell-by date. Till the recent past, the thunderclap of its voices of freedom resounded in the hallways of history as India's only bulwark against colonialism.

Even now, it colonises Indian mind space disproportionately as a minimum party with maximum attention and traction. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has vowed to deliver a Congress-mukt Bharat. He defenestrated the Congress. Still like the Canterville ghost chained to its own destiny, it roams the corridors of familial exile. Its state governments have either collapsed or are in danger of collapse under the weight of its own contradictions. Normally adversity unites. In the Congress, it divides.

In spite of the long winter of powerlessness, the Congress has retained its relevance, being recognised as one of the four national parties. Its oxygen comes from its main promoters, the Gandhis. They are in news once again. Now for the first time, three members of the Gandhi Parivar are actively involved in the hierarchy. While Sonia Gandhi is acting president until her own notice, daughter Priyanka has taken charge of Uttar Pradesh as General Secretary. Rahul Gandhi retains his slot in the Congress Working Committee and is the only candidate to replace himself, or his mother. Enslaved by its feudal history, the Congress continues to exploit the freedom struggle as a patented paradigm.

The first storm hit the Congress when Jyotiraditya Scindia defected and brought down the Congress government in Bhopal. Now, Cyclone Sachin Pilot has hit Jaipur. Since these two catastrophes, the Congress is in internal turmoil. Many of its leaders are calling for a massive purge and intense introspection. Since Indira Gandhi's showdown with the Syndicate in 1969, the GOP has been confronted with many generational boil overs. In the last CWC, the confrontation between static seniors and impatient young netas got pretty nasty. Former Union Ministers sought a serious review of the latter's ways and means to deal with current challenges.

Congress millennials questioned the UPA-II's performance under Manmohan Singh, who was also present. Predictably, no consensus emerged. Evidently, the Gandhi mojo was under scrutiny by both detractors and loyalists. As the party's geographical dominance shrinks poll after poll, its desirability as a match winner is waning. However, Gandhis are still the only all-rounders on the election ground. They've faced many googlies yet remain on the field in spite of not scoring much or taking wickets.

The Congress is the only national party which is identified by DNA over differentiation—the Gandhi genes are its protein code. During the past five decades, they've faced many revolts and splits—minor and major— yet never lost their pan-India appeal and recall. The Congress is a still political brand, which retains its small share of market in almost every district. Its evergreen bio data is biological since it fought the elections and won more seats under Nehru's leadership until 1967. Ever since the first major split in 1969, the party won elections only because a Gandhi led it. As it acquired the 'I'm Me and Mysef' affix by seeking recognition as Congress (I), it became synonymous with Indira. It was under her that India cleaved Pakistan into two and won two-thirds majority in Parliament.

After losing the majority of the Assembly elections in 1969, the Congress won back over two-thirds of the states under Indira. The Opposition slogan

According to Congress insiders, the Gandhi strategy is to get more public attention from BJP supporters, spokespersons and ministers than the Congress itself. It appears that in the BJP's attempt to deliver a Congress Mukt Bharat, it's perpetuating a Gandhi Yukt Bharat.

then wasn't '*Congress Hatao, Democracy Bachao*' but '*Indira Hatao, Desh Bachao*'. Indira was adored by the lower and middle classes but abhorred by the rich and the mighty. It evolved into an umbrella party under which all castes and communities came together. Indira was an ideology. The Congress transformation into a mass based organisation led by a single powerful individual was complete. Since then, it has invariably survived many setbacks, thanks to its Gandhi halo.

After Indira was assassinated, her elder son Rajiv became the young hope of a modern India. The Congress almost wiped out the Opposition by winning over 400 seats and scoring massive victories in subsequent state elections. Though Rajiv blundered during his five-year tenure, his outfit still emerged as the largest single party in 1989. But like his mother, Rajiv was also assassinated. Many firmly believe that had he not been eliminated, Rajiv would have taken the party to a massive victory again after the VP Singh government fell. From 1991 to 1996, PV Narsimha Rao was both the Prime Minister and party president. He was replaced by Sitaram Kesari. Neither of them could engineer a Lok Sabha win.

Finally, Sonia Gandhi took over as party chief in 1998. She ruled as AIIC president for a record 18 years. After losing the general elections in 1999, the Congress under her leadership stormed Indraprastha in 2004, backed by an alliance forged by her. In 2009, the Congress crossed the 200 tally and formed the government once again. The credit went to the Gandhis and not to the party. It also scored significant victories in many states.

In 2014 and 2019, the Gandhi moxie was neutered by Modi Magic. The Congress couldn't even retain the status of a recognised Opposition party in the Lok Sabha. It has been doing electorally better after Rahul became president in 2017. It regained power in MP, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. Previously, it won Punjab and did well in Goa and the North East. The contradiction is that most Congress leaders are confined to their own states and don't have the chutzpah to battle the ruling BJP effectively. Only the Gandhis are aggressively challenging Modi and the BJP on digital platforms. They are indispensable because no other Congress leader has nationwide acceptability or connectivity. It's obvious that their vertiginous veracity do not come from sycophantic leaders, but from the BJP's excessive attention.

According to Congress insiders, the Gandhi strategy is to get more public attention from BJP supporters, spokespersons and ministers than the Congress itself. It appears that in the BJP's attempt to deliver a Congress Mukt Bharat, it's perpetuating a Gandhi Yukt Bharat. The Gandhi troika may not be perceived as serious leaders with an alternative agenda. But the saffron obsession keeps them in the news and on the political field. The BJP has the Sangh Parivar with a leader and an ideology. The Congress has only the Gandhi Parivar sans ideology and distinctive identity. Their family tree is the party's Tree of Life. Its fruit may taste rotten to the BJP, but in the Indian political Eden, the serpent of dynastic dynamic is full of poisonous promise.

QUOTE CORNER

Hong Kong police is targeting a US citizen for lobbying my own govt. I might be the first non-Chinese citizen to be targeted, but I will not be the last. If I am targeted, any American, any citizen of any nation who speaks out can — and will be — too

Samuel Chu, democracy campaigner and US citizen

I have encountered words uttered by Mr Yoho and men uttering the same words as Mr Yoho while I was being harassed in restaurants. I have tossed men out of bars that have used language like Mr Yoho's. This issue is not about one incident. It is cultural

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, US Congresswoman

Many countries that believed they were past the worst are now grappling with new outbreaks. Some that were less affected in the earliest weeks are now seeing escalating numbers of cases and deaths

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director General

MAILBAG

WRITE TO letters@newindianexpress.com

The tragedy of Advani

The article 'Ayodhya and the Paradox of Advani's political life' was a well-informative and insightful piece on the great fall of Bheeshmapitha of BJP and churning of events in the innermost circle of the party. One thing is really shocking that how disgracefully Modi and Amit Shah sidelined such a tall leader and the architect of the party's rise from 2 to 200 seats in Parliament. Another troubling fact is that those leaders like Adwani, Murali Manohar Joshi, Uma Bharati, Vinay Katiyar, Kalyan Singh and many others have been totally sidelined by Modi and Shah.

KM Sidhique, Bengaluru

Bad debt conundrum

Indian banks are today in a pitiable plight ('Preventing another toxic bank loan crisis', Aug 1). The bad debts mess is mainly the creation of successive governments at the Centre in collaboration with pliable bank managements, both being not pained at precious public funds going down the drain.This bane of Indian PSBs should end. The Covid crisis is only exceptional. That apart banks should recover money lent to the last rupee. If borrowers don't repay, how will banks pay salaries and return deposits with interest? At today's rate, any anxiety regarding future of deposits is not out of place.

P Mangalachandran, Kannur

New found love for BJP?

Congress spokeswoman Khushbu welcoming the Centre's new National Education Policy doesn't seem to have gone down well with the party. In her defence, Khushbu has said that she would rather speak the truth than be a head-nodding robot or a puppet. While TNCC president KS Alagiri has termed her endorsement as an act of 'indiscipline', some others in the party have felt that the actor is moving closer to arch rival BJP. Even if Khushbu joins the saffron party, there's nothing wrong about it. Because, all these years she was playing second fiddle to the party's top brass without getting anything in return. Moreover, she has realised that Congress is now a sinking ship, and it's wiser to follow the example of the proverbial rats. Probably, Khushbu is thrilled that BJP has offered a plum post even to the kin of a slain sandalwood smuggler.

PG Menon, Chennai

Collapse of law and order

It is extremely shocking that with impunity, an unarmed man is savagely beaten and kicked to pulp while the police and dozens of people do little more than watch demonstrating the collapse of law near the country's national capital. On Friday, a group of cow vigilantes chasing a pick-up truck for about 8 km managed to flag it down. The incident had chilling echoes of the Dadri lynching. Let me know why did the police not save the victim from accused? Are the public judge to punish the criminal by their own? Why did the police not arrest the accused when they were committing the horrific crime?

B O Changa, West Bengal

Men matter, not machines

The claims and counter-claims of experts in China and India on the capabilities of J-20 jets and Rafale jets are meaningless. In 1965 Indo-Pak war, our brave soldiers made the combat zone a graveyard for Patton tanks which was considered far superior to our Centurion tanks. What matters in a war is the bravery and efficient handling of the weaponry and not its brand name.

N A Joseph, Ettumanoor

Bihar deluge raises questions

The flood situation in Bihar has gone from bad to worse day. Over 19 lakh people from 725 villages spread across 263 panchayats in 24 blocks of Madhepura, Araria, Supaul and Saharsa districts were reeling due to the Kosi flood. It is not the first time that Bihar is hit by floods. The people are affected every year. I have been unable to understand that why do the State and Centre not take suitable steps. Is the Centre unable to prevent the floods or it is the result of government's negligence?

Noor Ahmad, Hyderabad

THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

Amit Shah @AmitShah
There's a half-letter difference in maram (death) and smaran (remembrance), but to add this half, one has to dedicate his whole life

Sitaram Yechury @SitaramYechury
In the name of 'ease of doing business' Modi government has abandoned safety audits in industrial units

Subramanian Swamy @SubramanianSwamy
Education Ministry should set up Edex Online for learning from foreign universities, and not permit foreign universities to set up branches in India

'Unity, credibility must for strong oppn'

FOR a national opposition, there are a lot of roles to be played by strong regional leaders and unless people stand up to pressure tactics of the ruling party, the country will not have a national opposition, says ***eminent lawyer and Congress MP Abhishek Manu Singhvi. Trinamool Congress MP Dinesh Trivedi*** *thinks the opposition needs to have credibility to take on the BJP. Their remarks came during a conversation on 'Paralysis of National Opposition' with* ***Prabhu Chawla, Editorial Director, The New Indian Express,*** *on TNIE's Expressions, a series of live webcasts with people who matter.*

EXPRESS expressions FEAR NONE. FAVOUR NONE

Q: Do you see a national opposition led by a national party emerging in future.
AMS: It's a mistake to think that unless the Congress matches the BJP's number, you will not have the national opposition. Two leaders of the largest state, Uttar Pradesh, are in silence for last over one year. Unless people stand up to such pressure tactics of the ruling parties, you will not have a national opposition and you cannot expect the Congress to go from 44 to 272. For a national composite collective opposition, there are a lot of roles to be played by a lot of people who fit in the puzzle and who are not playing that role.

DT: It is not always numbers; it's quality also. I don't think we should look for leaders, but what is needed is credibility. We need to have people with credibility and what perhaps is lacking in the opposition is credibility and that comes with a lot of work. Today, youth is looking for definite answers. Nothing remains stagnant and there is no need to say democracy has gone to dogs...things will happen and leadership will come. We should not look for shortcuts and if the BJP is forming government in states at any cost, believe me if there is no value, then it will not last long.

Q: Do you think Rahul Gandhi has the credibility to lead the united opposition?

AMS: We (Congress) have the uppermost credibility at the national level. Rahul Gandhi was very active when we won several states and he was very much in the saddle. He fought hard when he was the party president. The only mistake I would say is when Rahul put his foot down (in resigning as party chief) and now he should immediately take charge.

DT: Rahul Gandhi has to change the style...Because you have to be at it 24x7 and in your house, there has to be a mela (congregation of party workers). There are regional leaders who are very powerful and they can lead the opposition.

Q: The opposition unity was not seen in events happening in Rajasthan.
AMS: We should have had active participation from parties (opposition). They (regional parties ruling the states) are more under threat as democratic institutions are being muted. Part of the fault lies with us that we did not drag them to come.

DT: It is relevant for a democracy and it cannot survive without a vibrant opposition. We are a very strong regional party and we don't want to interfere in someone else's business, but need to recognise the fact that if we are not united, they tend to corrupt. There is a lack of strong national leadership.

'India's education system to be world class by 2040'

NEP 2020 aims for 'quality education for all', says Education Minister

THE New Education Policy (NEP 2020) that was launched last Wednesday aims to make India's education system one of the best in the world and provide access to the highest-quality education for all, Union Minister of Education **Dr Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank** told **Sumi Sukanya Dutta** in an email interview.

Now that the National Education Policy has been adopted by the government, what is the way forward and how will the government implement it?
With the National Education Policy coming in effect, we are hoping to transform education and putting a significant thrust on learning about how to think critically and solve problems, to be creative and multidisciplinary, and to innovate, adapt, and absorb new material in novel and changing fields. The curriculum will include basic arts, crafts, humanities, games, sports and fitness, languages, literature, culture, and values, in addition to science and mathematics, to develop all aspects and capabilities of learners; and make education more well-rounded, useful, and fulfilling. NEP aims to build character, enable learners to be ethical, rational, compassionate, and caring, while at the same time prepare them for gainful, fulfilling employment.

We are making an implementation plan with clear tasks and timelines and we would endeavour to implement the same in letter and spirit.

What are the short-term and long-term goals related to its implementation?
NEP aims that India's education system will become second to none by 2040, with equitable access to the highest-quality education for all learners regardless of social or economic background. We hope to achieve quality early childhood development, care, and education as soon as possible and maximum by 2030, to ensure that all students entering Grade 1 are school ready. States will prepare a plan for attaining universal foundational literacy and numeracy for all learners by Grade 3 in next five years. We want teachers to be prepared for a transformation in the assessment system by 2022-23. Teacher education will gradually be moved into multidisciplinary colleges and universities. The minimum degree qualification for teaching will be a 4-year integrated B. Ed. degree by 2030.

By 2040, all higher education institutions should become multidisciplinary institutions with at least 3,000 students; and by 2030, there will be at least one large multidisciplinary HEI in or near every district.

The NEPs in the past faced major financial hurdles. Is there a clear financial plan to execute the new NEP?
Centre and the States will work together to increase public investment in education to 6% of GDP at the earliest. In particular, financial support will be provided to various critical elements and components of education, such as ensuring universal access, learning resources, nutritional support, student safety and well-being,

adequate numbers of teachers and staff, teacher development and support for all key initiatives towards equitable high-quality education for underprivileged and socio-economically disadvantaged groups.

A key clause in the NEP is that medium of instruction till class 5 will be in mother tongue or local language. Will it be mandatory? There is an argument that it could put children in govt schools at a disadvantage as private schools may continue to teach in English. What do you think?
The NEP took into consideration expert opinions, field experiences, empirical research, stakeholder feedback and lessons learnt from best practices. In most developed countries, they have made an earnest effort to ensure that child studies in the mother tongue so that both parents and children participate in education process. Children learn and grasp non-trivial concepts more quickly in their home language.

There are practical issues related to teaching in mother tongue or local language. There are millions of multi-language families and a lot of people have transferable jobs and their kids go to schools in different states. Have all these issues been thought through?
In multilingual families, there can be a language spoken by other family members which is different from the mother tongue or local language. Therefore, we have added the term "wherever possible" in the language recommendation clause. However, mother tongue or local language should be the medium of instruction at least till class 5.

NEP has also proposed making universities and colleges multi-disciplinary. Some think that it may not be a good idea to tamper with high-quality institutions like IISC, IIMs and IITs. Your views?
IITs are already leading the path by introducing multi-disciplinary courses. The policy envisages a broad-based multi-disciplinary holistic education at undergraduate level for integrated, rigorous exposure to science, arts, humanities, mathematics and professional fields. A holistic and multidisciplinary education will help develop well-rounded individuals.

There are concerns that the policy is promoting privatisation of education--particularly in the higher education sector?
There are multiple checks and balances to combat and stop the commercialisation of school and higher education. An effective quality self-regulation or accreditation system will be instituted for all stages of education including pre-school education - private, public, and philanthropic - to ensure compliance with essential quality standards. States will set up an independent body, State School Standards Authority, to establish a minimal set of standards.

All higher education institutions will be held to similar standards of audit and disclosure as a 'not for profit' entity. The accreditation system developed by NAC will provide a complimentary check on this system. Private HEIs having a philanthropic and public-spirited intent will be encouraged through a progressive fee regime. Transparent mechanisms for fixing fees with an upper limit will be developed.

Kashmir: Incidents of violence down, infiltration on the rise

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

TERRORIST activities in Kashmir have come down on various parameters, but the number of foreign terrorists infiltrating the Valley has risen in the last one year compared to the previous year, government sources said.

On another positive count, local youth's participation in militancy activities has reduced and security forces have been able to check the violence levels and killing of their personnel. "Till August 1, out of 162 infiltrators, 112 succeeded in entering the Valley. In 2019, 101 had entered out of 241 who made such attempts," said a government source.

The bigger sign of shift is in 42% decline in youth joining terror groups in the last one year till July 2020 from August 2019. For the same period, 100 local boys have gone into the terrorists fold, making it lesser than 172 who joined last year," said the source.

The forces neutralized 276 terrorists during the one-year period prior to August 5, 2019. Since January 2020 to date, the 148 terrorists have been neutralized. The 22 terrorists were killed during infiltration before August 5, 2019.

Terrorists could initiate 181 attacks as against 395 (a fall of 54%) and 42 civilians were killed as against 51 during the previous period. The number of security force personnel killed in action declined by 66% with 40 personnel as against 117 personnel losing their lives during the previous period. A similar reduction in injuries to the personnel by 53% was seen (from 207 to 98).

However, there was a rise in the incidents of ceasefire violations: 825 from 368 incidents in the previous period. Poonch bore the maximum brunt while Kathua saw the highest rate of truce violations.

About 75% less ammunition was fired in 2020 compared to the corresponding periods in 2018 and 2019, sources said.

A broken window glass from a bullet hole after an encounter between security forces and militants at Ranbirgarh near Srinagar last Saturday | PTI

Decline in locals joining terror fold

- 112 succeeded in entering Kashmir Valley till Aug 1, 2020; 101 had infiltrated during the same period in 2019
- 100 local youth joined the terrorists fold till Aug 1, 2020; 172 locals had joined militancy in the corresponding period
- 148 terrorists neutralised from July 2019 to Aug 1, 2020; 276 terrorists neutralised during the one-year period till Aug 2019

Govt allows export of made-in-India ventilators

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

THE group of ministers on Covid-19, headed by Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan has recommended allowing export of made-in-India ventilators to other countries in need of the crucial equipment.

The decision, said the health ministry, has been taken as the Covid-19 related case fatality rate has been declining and has now come down to 2.15%. On Friday, the government had said that of over 5 lakh active Covid 19 patients—only 1,579 were on ventilators.

"Additionally, there has been substantial growth in the domestic manufacturing capacity of ventilators," said the ministry. "There are presently more than 20 domestic manufacturers for ventilators."

The export prohibition and restriction on ventilators was imposed in March to ensure domestic availability to effectively fight the pandemic. "Now with export of ventilators having been allowed, it is hoped that manufacturers would be in a position to find new markets for Indian ventilators."

Validity of law on criminal contempt challenged in SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

THE Supreme Court is likely to hear a plea challenging the constitutional validity of 'criminal contempt' on August 4. The plea claimed that the law, allowing criminal contempt action to be initiated against anyone for 'scandalising or lowering the authority of a court of law', violated Right to Equality and Right to Free Speech.

The petition challenged Section 2(c)(i) of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, that defines 'criminal contempt' as publication of anything - whether by words, spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise of any matter or the doing of any other act whatsoever - which scandalises or tends to scandalise, or lowers or tends to lower the authority of any court.

The plea, filed by senior journalist N Ram, former union minister Arun Shourie and lawyer-activist Prashant Bhushan, said, "The broad and ambiguous wording of the sub-section violates Article 14 by leaving the offence open to differing and inconsistent applications. This uncertainty in the manner in which the law applies renders it manifestly arbitrary and violates the right to equal treatment."

> **It (law on criminal contempt) is incompatible with preamble values and basic features of the Constitution, is unconstitutionally and incurably vague, and is manifestly arbitrary**
>
> The petitioners

Terming it as unconstitutional, the petitioners argued, "It is incompatible with preamble values and basic features of the Constitution, it violates Article 19(1)(a), is unconstitutionally and incurably vague, and is manifestly arbitrary."

In a separate plea, Bhushan also challenged the suo motu contempt proceedings against him for his alleged 'contemptuous' tweets against present and four former CJIs.

Seeking stay, Bhushan said that the petition was defective as it did not have consent of either Attorney General or Solicitor General.

EXPRESS READ

Panel seeks clarity on social security

New Delhi: The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour has sought give details on the finances of social security fund and funds for the welfare of the unorganised sector. It asked the government to specify contributions of employers, Centre, states and donations with regard to social security of workers not covered.

Centre for snow leopards

Dehradun: A Uttarakhand state forest department will build a conversation centre for snow leopards in Uttarakashi district soon, said CM Trivendra Singh Rawat on Saturday. "The centre will come up at Lanka in Bhairoghhati of Uttarkashi forest division. The decision will help conserving the precious species," the CM said.

Old guard vs youth brigade over UPA legacy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

SENIOR Congress leaders and former ministers under United Progressive Alliance (UPA) regime rallied behind the **Manmohan Singh**-led government after some younger leaders called for introspection of the tenure of UPA-2 to understand party's electoral downfall, saying party should be proud of its legacy and should not disown it.

"UPA government was victim of a grand political conspiracy and malicious disinformation campaign of the BJP, political opponents and powerful vested interests. Six years later, what was alleged in 2014 stands proven false in 2020. Congress as a democratic party is always open to a debate on its achievements and failures. Honest introspection and analysis are always helpful and gives strength to move forward," said senior party leader Anand Sharma.

Emphasizing that Congressmen must be proud of UPA's legacy and no party disowns or discredits it's legacy, he said nobody expects the BJP to be charitable and give us credit but our own should respect and not forget.

The divide among young and senior party leaders came to fore during a meeting of Rajya Sabha MPs chaired by party chief Sonia Gandhi. Some young MPs, including Rajiv Satav, incharge for Gujarat, called for introspection if the party is paying for the work during the UPA regime.

Another minister under during the Congress led coalition, Manish Tewari tweeted: "BJP was out of power for 10 years. Not once did they ever blame Vajpayee or his Government for their then predicaments. In Congress, unfortunately some ill-informed would rather take swipes at Dr Manmohan Singh-led UPA govt then fight NDA/BJP. When unity is required, they divide."

Echoing similar views, a member of Team Rahul and former minister Milind Deora said, "When demitting office in 2014, Dr Manmohan Singh said, 'history will be kinder to me'. Could he have ever imagined that some from his own party would dismiss his years of service to the nation and seek to destroy his legacy — that, too, in his presence?"

Healthcare staffers, forces, elderly may get vaccine first

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

BUT several government scientists told this newspaper that the pace of discussion and planning for vaccine distribution has been "rather slack" so far.

"I would say that by now we should have had the blueprint ready for who will get the vaccination first under different scenarios—when varying amounts of vaccines are available—but that has not happened yet and that's worrying," said a senior virologist.

Another virologist attached with the department of biotechnology said the "vulnerable section of the society" that are expected to get the medicine first could be nearly 30% of India's total population. "Most likely we will not have doses available for nearly 40 crore people in the beginning. Also, who will be vaccinated first and who will pay for it? I see these details missing," he said.

Some others pointed out that apart from healthcare workers, military and paramilitary forces, the elderly and those with non-communicable diseases should get the vaccine first. "For that there should be a prioritisation plan in place with mapping done of vulnerable people as quickly as possible," said Sudhanshu Vrati, executive director of the Regional Centre for Biotechnology in Faridabad.

Shahid Jameel, virologist and CEO of Wellcome Trust DBT India Alliance, said while the policy direction from the PMO was sensible, the real test would be its implementation.

"It is not yet clear what vaccines would prove efficacious and get approval in India," he said. "The next issue would be how many companies would make them for India and what capacity these would have."

As of now, early human trials of two vaccine candidates developed indigenously, one each by Bharat Biotech and Zydus Cadilla, are underway. Phase 3 trials of a vaccine developed by Oxford University, UK, are also set to begin in India.

Oxford's experimental vaccine, AZD1222, which has been licensed to AstraZeneca with which the Serum Institute of India has tied up for manufacturing, has raised hopes, showing promising results in phase 1 and 2 trials.

EXTENSION
Senior Congress leader P Chidambaram said the extension of PDP leader Mehbooba Mufti's detention under the Public Safety Act (PSA) is an 'abuse of law.'

50L AFFECTED
AS FLOOD WATERS REACH FRESH AREAS IN BIHAR

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	36	24	Mumbai	28	25
Bhopal	34	24	Panaji	28	24
Jaipur	40	26	Patna	33	28
Amritsar	34	27	Lucknow	33	28
Chennai	32	24	Port Blair	29	25
Kolkata	33	27	Imphal	30	22
Srinagar	28	20	Chandigarh	36	23

PUNJAB

Toll in hooch tragedy rises to 86; 25 arrested so far

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

AT least 86 people have died after consuming spurious liquor in Amritsar, Gurdaspur and Tarn Taran districts of Punjab. The police have till now arrested 25 bootleggers as 100 raids were conducted by five police teams in various parts of the state.

While 63 deaths were reported from Tarn Taran, 12 died in Amritsar (Rural) and 11 succumbed in Batala districts. According to reports, seven Excise & Taxation Officers and Inspectors, along with two DSPs and four SHOs have been suspended in connection with the tragedy.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh has announced ₹2 lakh as compensation to each of the families of the deceased.

Police said the main alleged accused woman bootlegger has been arrested. Her husband, who was out on bail for supplying illegal liquor, also died in the tragedy.

It is learnt that the families of the deceased are protesting seeking compensation from the state government and have refused to record their statements. Demanding strict action against liquor mafia the family members of one of the deceased Kirpal Singh kept his body at the protest site and demanded a compensation of ₹10 lakh.

The protestors have threatened that they would block the Amritsar-Delhi National Highway if their demands were not met.

On the other hand a few families are not getting their statements recorded as they fear social stigma. "Many families are not coming forward to record their statements as they do not want any action and also not getting the post mortem done as they fear stigma," said a police officer.

Punjab DGP Dinkar Gupta said that large quantities of *lahan* from various villages and dhabas in the region around Shambhu border, Rajpura and Patiala have . The raids had exposed a massive racket in illicit liquor, extending across several districts, he said. As much as 750 litres of Lahan had been seized.

Family members of Kirpal Singh, who died after allegedly consuming spurious liquor in Amritsar | PTI

SPG team in Ayodhya for PM security

Uttar Pradesh DGP says the innermost security ring will be handled by the SPG on August 5

NAMITA BAJPAI @Lucknow

SPECIAL Protection Group personnel on Saturday reached Ayodhya to take over the security arrangements of Prime Minister Narendra Modi who will be visiting the temple town on August 5 for *Bhoomi Pujan* ceremony. The SPG group is a special force which provides proximate security to the Prime Minister.

However, UP Police has also decided to deploy around 4,000 cops who have undergone Covid test and have come negative and are below 45 years of age during PM's visit in Ayodhya.

Moreover, a special team of health and sanitary officials also reached Ayodhya on Saturday to ensure the arrangement for the ceremony in compliance of Covid-19 protocol. Notably, a priest and 16 cops deployed on Ram Janmabhoomi premises were found positive on Thursday.

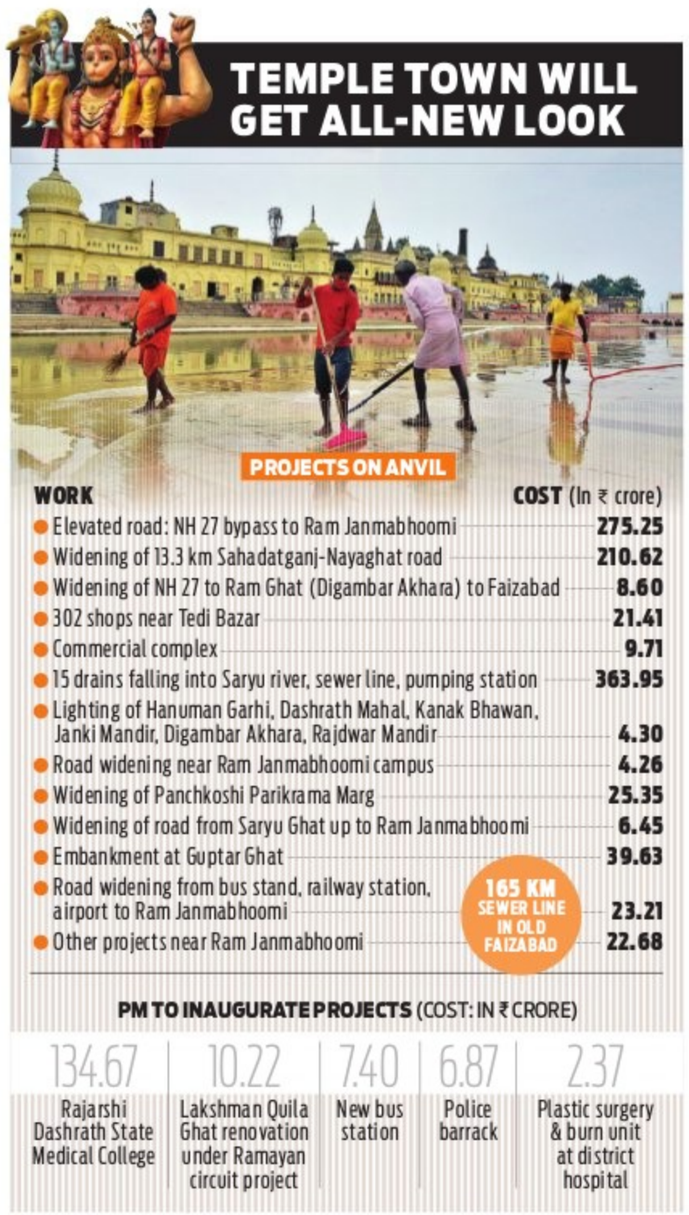
As per the highly-placed sources, the SPG was set to throw a thick blanket of security in the entire temple town restricting the movement of people in the wake of VVIP visit. All the senior most officials of UP police and administration including UP DGP and chief secretary RK Tiwari and additional chief secretary, home, Awanish Awasthi were in Ayodhya to review the security and other arrangements.

According UP DGP Hitesh Chandra Awasthi, the decision was made in a meeting held to review the security arrangements in Ayodhya. As per the DGP, the inner most security ring will be handled by SPG.

However, the police personnel, who have tested negative for the infection as well as those kept in reserve in complete isolation, would preferably be deployed closer to the inner security ring of the PM.

As per the sources, over 4,000 police personnel across Ayodhya district would be deployed for security and to restrict the movement of people. Over 300 police personnel who were younger and had tested negative for Covid-19 were handpicked for VVIP security.

Around 10 companies of the provincial armed constabulary (PAC) and the central armed police force will also be deployed. The security arrangements will include sealing the district borders and curbing traffic movement.


TEMPLE TOWN WILL GET ALL-NEW LOOK
PROJECTS ON ANVIL
WORK
COST (In ₹ crore)
Elevated road: NH 27 bypass to Ram Janmabhoomi 275.25
Widening of 13.3 km Sahadatganj-Nayaghat road 210.62
Widening of NH 27 to Ram Ghat (Digambar Akhara) to Faizabad 8.60
302 shops near Tedi Bazar 21.41
Commercial complex 9.71
15 drains falling into Saryu river, sewer line, pumping station 363.95
Lighting of Hanuman Garhi, Dashrath Mahal, Kanak Bhawan, Janki Mandir, Digambar Akhara, Rajdwar Mandir 4.30
Road widening near Ram Janmabhoomi campus 4.26
Widening of Panchkoshi Parikrama Marg 25.35
Widening of road from Saryu Ghat up to Ram Janmabhoomi 6.45
Embankment at Guptar Ghat 39.63
Road widening from bus stand, railway station, airport to Ram Janmabhoomi 23.21
Other projects near Ram Janmabhoomi 22.68
165 KM SEWER LINE IN OLD FAIZABAD
PM TO INAUGURATE PROJECTS (COST: IN ₹ CRORE)
134.67 Rajarshi Dashrath State Medical College
10.22 Lakshman Quila Ghat renovation under Ramayan circuit project
7.40 New bus station
6.87 Police barrack
2.37 Plastic surgery & burn unit at district hospital

'Uninvited' Advani may attend virtually

NAMITA BAJPAI @Lucknow

BJP veterans **LK Advani** and Murli Manohar Joshi have not been invited by the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust for the *'bhoomi pujan'* ceremony. Therefore, both the saffron stalwarts, who played a very active and crucial role in temple movement, are unlikely to be physically present in the ceremony in temple town.

However, as per the highly-placed trust sources, both BJP veterans would join the ceremony through video conferencing. Even there is a suspense on the chances of Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh attending the event. Besides, the administration has prepared a list of top 10 leaders of the BJP who will be attending the event through video conference owing to their age factor and ongoing Covid-19 crisis.

It may be noted that both Advani and Joshi had recently attended hearing in Babri Masjid demolition in special CBI court in Lucknow through video conferencing owing to their medical condition, age factor and the pandemic.

Moreover, the sources claimed that the list of invitees did not comprise any industrialist or high-profile NRI guest.

Town to get tallest statue of Lord Ram

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THE impending temple construction, to be rolled out by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 5, promises to unleash dozens of development schemes for which the blueprint is ready. The foundation for many schemes will be laid the same day. In all, the PM will launch and lay the foundation of development projects worth ₹487.91 crore in the temple town.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is credited with kicking off much of the work since 2017 when the BJP government took over: Faizabad district was named as Ayodhya and the town was upgraded as a municipal corporation for improving civic standards.

The CM has paid at least two dozen visits to Ayodhya since assuming charge. These resulted in Diwali being celebrated on a grand scale as Deepotsav.

Besides, infrastructure projects worth ₹350 crore are nearing completion by this year-end. They were delayed due to the coronavirus pandemic. These include a ₹640-crore international airport, a Lord Ram's statue and an upscale, ultra-modern township Navya Ayodhya. The state government has already released ₹400 crore for the proposed airport.

The most exciting will be the proposed tallest statue of Lord Ram – at 221 metre — 38-m taller than the current tallest Statue of Unity in Gujarat. According to the preliminary design, the 150-metre bronze statue will stand on a 50-metre pedestal, covered under a hood of another 20 metre. It will show Lord Ram holding a metal bow in his left hand and an arrow in his right. The statue will come up away from the temple.

The government has allocated ₹200 crore for soil testing, wind tunnel test, design development and a detailed project report (DPR) preparation.

A roadmap for 'Navya Ayodhya,' a township spanning nearly 500 acres is ready. It is estimated to cost ₹1,200 crore.

'Nitish will act if Sushant's family wants CBI probe'

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @Patna

THE Bihar government was ready to recommend a CBI probe into the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput if the family wants so, state's water resources minister Sanjay Jha, who is considered to be one of the closest political aides of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, said on Saturday.

"It all depends on the willingness of the late actor's father or his family because ultimately it's the family that has suffered. As far as a probe by CBI is concerned, CM Nitish Kumar will certainly recommend that if the family wishes," Jha said. He also defended the Bihar Police's decision to lodge an FIR and launch a probe into the case.

The Patna Police team, which is in Mumbai to probe the alleged suicide, is keeping a watch on Sushant's girlfriend actress Rhea Chakraborty, who has been alleged by his father to have driven him to suicide. When asked whether Chakraborty would be interrogated, an official of the foutmember team said, "It is not required as of now. But she is under our watch." Another official said a notice has been sent to Chakraborty under sections of CrPC asking her to cooperate in the probe.

The team has recorded the statements of six persons so far.

Amar Singh, man of many colours, dead

NAMITA BAJPAI @Lucknow

RAJYA Sabha MP and former Samajwadi Party leader Amar Singh passed away after a prolonged illness on Saturday at a Singapore hospital where he was undergoing treatment for the last six months. Singh, 64, was in the ICU and his family was by his side when he breathed his last.

Singh had suffered a kidney failure in 2013 and had undergone a transplant as well. Earlier on Saturday, he had tweeted a tribute to freedom fighter and educationist Bal Gangadhar Tilak on his death anniversary and also wished Eid-al-Adha to his followers. Singh was the SP general secretary and a key member of the decision making group in the party. Part of SP patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav's core confidantes, Singh used to have direct access to Mulayam's personal space.

AMAR SINGH
1956-2020

On January 6, 2010, Singh along with his protege, actor Jaya Prada, resigned from all party posts following differences with Rampur strongman and SP leader Azam Khan. He was expelled by Mulayam on February 2, 2010. He spent a brief period in judicial custody in 2011.

That year he tried to revive his declining political career by floating his own outfit, the Rashtriya Lok Manch. He fielded candidates in the UP assembly polls in 2012 but without any luck. In 2014, he joined Jat leader Ajit Singh's party, the Rashtriya Lok Dal.

Born on July 27, 1956, and hailing from Azamgarh in UP, Singh first went to the upper house of Parliament in 1996. He was again elected to the RS in 2016 as an independent member but with support from the Samajwadi Party, much against the wishes of the then UP CM Akhilesh Yadav.

Singh was reappointed the SP general secretary in October 2016. But his second stint did not last long as he was expelled again by Akhilesh on January 1, 2017 after the younger Yadav took over as the SP chief. Singh will be remembered as among the few politicians who had friends across the political spectrum. He was fond of Bollywood stars. Singh and the Bachchans were very close at one point. But in 2016, their relationship strained.

Sachin Pilot says he is still a part of Cong, Gehlot extends olive branch

RICHA SHARMA AND RAJESH ASNANI @ New Delhi/Jaipur

IN his first official communication with the party in over a fortnight, rebel Congress leader Sachin Pilot has written to Mahesh Joshi, the party chief whip in Rajasthan assembly, reiterating that he continues to be part of the Congress and explaining the reasons for him and 18 other MLAs skipping two legislature party meetings in Jaipur.

In turn, CM Ashok Gehlot softened his stand, saying he was ready to embrace the rebels if they apologise to the Congress high command and it forgives them. "It depends on the party high command. If the party high command forgives, I shall embrace them," he said.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot addresses media outside Suryagarh Hotel in Jaisalmer on Saturday | PTI

Gehlot instead took aims at the BJP. "We have no personal quarrel with anyone. In a democracy, fights happen over ideology, policies and programmes and not for toppling a government....Modi should get the drama which is going on in Rajasthan ended," he said in Jaisalmer.

According to Congress sources, Pilot sent an e-mail sent to Joshi, "which says he could not attend the meeting of MLAs as he was seeking legal remedy for false accusations against him and his colleagues for toppling the Rajasthan government. Moreover, FIRs have been registered against them and legal notices were served".

The Congress, however, is moving cautiously as it feels Pilot's move is aimed at strengthening his case legally.

"It is a well-prepared legal document to prove that it is a kind of dissent in the party, for he and his colleagues wanted a leadership change and not to be seen as a defection," said a source.

Assam govt to reopen schools on Sept 1

Assam is preparing to reopen schools and colleges from September 1. "We are mentally preparing to reopen schools and colleges from September 1. However, it will depend on the decision of Centre," Education Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Saturday. There will be no school for students up to Class IV. The reopening of schools will come with a set of riders. One of them is that all teachers and staff have to" undergo Covid-19 tests before August 30.

Bhutan King lauds Assam CM for help

Bhutan King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck lauded Assam CM Sarbananda Sonowal and his government for helping Bhutan during the Covid-19 lockdown.

Stolen rare Shiva Idol to return after 22 years

An exquisite 9th century statue of Natesh Shiva stolen from the Ghateshwar temple in Chittorgarh district of Rajasthan in February 1998 and recovered in London will be on its way to the ASI. Officials said that British authorities were alerted in 2003 when it emerged that the statue had been smuggled into the UK. They interacted with a private collector, who had it in his possession and later voluntarily returned it to the Indian high commission in 2005. Since then the statue has been displayed prominently in India House. In August 2017 a team of the ASI experts examined the idol and confirmed that it is the same 'murti' that was stolen.

RAJESH ASNANI
Our correspondent in Jaipur
rajesh.asnani@newindianexpress.com

JAIPUR DIARY

Tiger photo exhibition organised in Jaipur

A digital exhibition was jointly organised by the state forest department and Jaipur Tiger Festival to mark the celebration in Rajasthan this year as the routine events are being avoided in consideration of social distancing. The exhibition displayed selected photographs captured by renowned Indian and foreign photographers. Showcasing the various behavioral and even unseen aspects of the tiger, these photographs took the viewers a little closer to the otherwise intimidating animal. The first prize of ₹51,000 was bagged by Abhijeet Sinha of Mumbai. Second prize ₹31,000 went to Mohammad Yasir Hussain from Gurugram. And Kunal Khivansara from Jodhpur got ₹21, 000 as third prize.

Rafale's Rajasthan connection

As the first batch of five Rafale fighter aircraft reached India on Wednesday, few were aware of the special Rajasthan connection. Among the five pilots of the Indian Air Force who brought these aircraft to Ambala was Wing Commander Abhishek Tripathi whose family lives in Jaipur, where he grew up and completed his studies. Abhishek was born in Jodhpur on 9 January, 1984 and spent his childhood in Jalore district where both his parents were then posted. Abhishek shifted to Jaipur in 1999. Abhishek later went on to do an MSc from JNU.

Gehlot camp MLAs celebrate Eid in Jaisalmer

The Ashok Gehlot camp MLAs on Saturday celebrated Eid at a hotel in Jaisalmer. On Saturday, the 8 MLAs read their prayers at the hotel. On Monday, the MLAs will also celebrate Rakhi festival in the Jaisalmer resort. Amid political crisis in Rajasthan, MLAs of the Ashok Gehlot camp were shifted to Jaisalmer from Jaipur on Friday afternoon. After staying at the luxurious Fairmont Hotel, the MLAs were flown to Jaisalmer by a special flight where they will be kept till they return for the Assembly session on August 14.

6,803
fires recorded in the Amazon region in July 2020, up from 5,318 the year before.

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	34	26	LC	Los Angeles	29	17	SNY
Colombo	30	25	TDS	Melbourne	17	7	LC
Doha	43	31	SNY	Moscow	19	9	LC
Dubai	43	32	SNY	New York	29	24	TDS
Houston	33	23	SNY	Singapore	32	26	LR
Istanbul	29	20	LC	Toronto	26	18	TDS
London	24	13	LC	Washington DC	34	25	LC

Top US expert Fauci cautions over China, Russia virus vaccines

America is unlikely to use a vaccine developed by either country, the official said; East Asia experiences new spikes of coronavirus infections

WASHINGTON

AMERICA'S top infectious diseases official has raised concerns over COVID-19 vaccines being developed by China and Russia as the world scrambles for answers to a pandemic the WHO warned will be felt for decades.

Six months after the World Health Organization declared a global emergency, the novel coronavirus has killed more than 680,000 people and infected more than 17.5 million, according to an AFP tally.

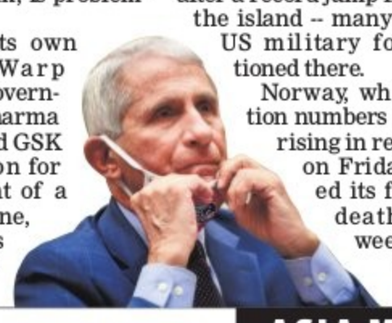
As countries across Western Europe announced new lockdowns and reported historic economic slumps, the UN health body said the pandemic was a "once-in-a-century" crisis.

Several Chinese companies are at the forefront of the race to develop a vaccine to the disease and Russia has set a target date of September to roll out its own medicine.

But US infectious disease expert Anthony Fauci said it was unlikely his country would use any vaccine developed in either country, where regulatory systems are far more opaque than they are in the West.

"I do hope that the Chinese and the Russians are actually testing the vaccine before they are administering the vaccine to anyone," he told a US Congressional hearing on Friday.

"Claims of having a vaccine ready to distribute before you do testing, I think, is problematic, at best."



As part of its own "Operation Warp Speed," the US government will pay pharma giants Sanofi and GSK up to $2.1 billion for the development of a COVID-19 vaccine, the companies said. In east Asia, territories which saw success in tackling the early wave of the coronavirus are now confronting worrying new spikes.

Japan's Okinawa declared a state of emergency Saturday after a record jump in cases on the island -- many linked to US military forces stationed there.

Norway, where infection numbers have been rising in recent days, on Friday recorded its first virus death in two weeks.

At least 33 crew members confined on a Norwegian cruise ship have tested positive for the new coronavirus, the company Hurtigruten said on Saturday.

Jobless benefit expires

With pressure rising, talks on a huge coronavirus relief measure resumed on Saturday, focused on restoring a expired $600-per-week supplemental unemployment benefit, a fresh $1,200 direct payment to most Americans, and hundreds of billions of dollars in other aid to states, businesses and the poor. Trump is eager for an agreement. *Agencies*

BIDEN NEARS FINAL DECISION ON V-P PICK

As Joe Biden nears the announcement of his vice presidential choice, the top contenders and their advocates are making final appeals. The campaign hasn't finalized a date for naming a running mate, but three people who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the plans said a public announcement likely wouldn't happen before the week of Aug 10. That's one week before Democrats will hold their convention to officially nominate Biden as their presidential nominee. The leading contenders include California Sen. Kamala Harris, California Rep. Karen Bass and Obama national security adviser Susan Rice. The deliberations remain fluid, however, and the campaign has reviewed nearly a dozen possible running mates. Running mates are often announced on the eve of a convention. As he prepares to make his choice, a committee established to vet possible running mates has provided Biden with briefing materials.

Rows of beds are seen at a temporary field hospital set up at Asia World Expo in Hong Kong on Saturday | AP

Mexico 3rd in Covid deaths, Vietnam records more cases

HANOI

MEXICO now has the third most Covid-19 deaths in the world, behind the United States and Brazil, while former success story Vietnam is struggling to control an outbreak spreading in its most famous beach resort.

China reported a more than 50% drop in newly confirmed cases in a possible sign that its latest major outbreak in the northwestern region of Xinjiang may have run its course.

However, in Hong Kong, infections continue to surge, with more than 100 new cases reported as of Saturday among the population of 7.5 million. Officials have reimposed dining restrictions and mask requirements.

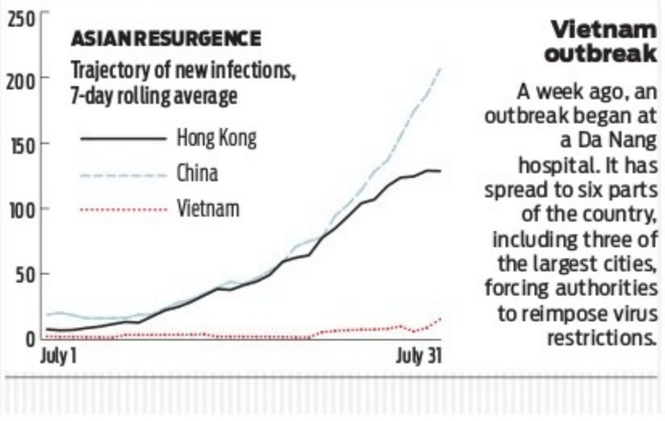
South Korean prosecutors arrested the elderly leader of a secretive religious sect linked to more than 5,200 of the country's 14,336 confirmed cases. He has denied charges of hiding members and underreporting gatherings to avoid broader quarantines.

Mexican health officials on Friday reported 688 new deaths, pushing the country's total to 46,688. That put Mexico just ahead of the United Kingdom, which has 46,119, according to the tally by Johns Hopkins University.

In Vietnam, a third person died of coronavirus complications, officials said Saturday, a day after it recorded its first-ever death as it struggles with a renewed outbreak after 99 days with no local cases.

All three died in a hospital in Da Nang, a hot spot with more than 100 cases in the past week. Thousands of visitors had been in the city for summer vacation and are now being tested in Hanoi and elsewhere.

Twelve additional cases were confirmed on Saturday, all linked to Da Nang Hospital. The city has tightened security and set up more checkpoints to prevent people from leaving or entering the city, which has been in lockdown since Tuesday. A makeshift hospital was set up in a sports auditorium and doctors have been mobilized from other cities to help. *AP*



Vietnam outbreak
A week ago, an outbreak began at a Da Nang hospital. It has spread to six parts of the country, including three of the largest cities, forcing authorities to reimpose virus restrictions.

ASIA MATTERS

PAKISTAN

Pak rockets kill 9, hurt 50 in Afghan town

Pakistan fired a barrage of rockets across its southwestern border, killing nine people and wounding 50 in an Afghan frontier town, Afghan officials said. Pakistan said Afghan border guards fired first and blamed them for the previous night's exchange. The shooting that led to the casualties in the town of Spinboldak was the latest cross-border exchange between the two countries. Earlier this month, Pakistan fired rockets into Afghanistan's northeastern Kunar, killing three people. The deadly exchanges have increased since Pakistan in 2017 began raising a fence along its 2,500 km border with Afghanistan known as the Durand Line. Pakistan considers the colonial-era division created in 1893 as an international border, while Afghanistan has never recognised the boundary.

INDONESIA

Strict distancing rules during Eid prayers

In Indonesia, home to the world's largest population of Muslims, people attended Eid prayers in mosques under strict guidelines, including that they bring their own prayer mats and pray several feet apart. Worshippers had to wear masks and were not allowed to shake hands or hug. Authorities also ordered that meat be delivered at home. "This outbreak has not only changed our tradition entirely, but has also made more people fall into poverty," said Agus Supriatna, a factory worker.

SINGAPORE

3 Indian-returnees test positive, tally at 52,512

Three persons, including two children who returned from India, have tested positive for COVID-19 in Singapore, the health ministry has said, as the number of coronavirus infections in the country rose to 52,512. A 13-year-old boy, who is a permanent resident here, and a 28-year-old woman on a dependant's pass arrived from India on July 19, the Ministry of Health (MOH) said. They were asymptomatic and were tested while on stay-home notice. The third case is a six-year-old Singaporean girl who arrived from India on July 3. The three imported cases were reported on Friday. Singapore on Saturday reported 307 new coronavirus cases, taking the country's total count to 52,512. The new cases include one community case, who is a Singaporean. The rest 306 were foreign workers living in dormitories.

MEDIA SCION JAMES MURDOCH CUTS TIES WITH FAMILY EMPIRE

Former 21st Century Fox chief executive James Murdoch, the son of media tycoon Rupert Murdoch, has resigned from News Corp's board citing clashes over editorial content, US regulators said.

ONCE SEEN AS SUCCESSOR
The 47-year-old once seen as his father's successor has been openly critical of some media coverage from publishing empire News Corp's outlets in recent months

280
More than 280 *Wall Street Journal* journalists and other staffers also recently sent a letter to the paper's publisher criticising the Opinion section, saying it published inaccuracies and undermined the paper with readers and sources

AD SLUMP
In May, News Corp said it would stop printing more than 100 Australian regional newspapers

2018
James and his more conservative sibling Lachlan had shared power at 21st Century Fox, but the sale of much of the Fox entertainment business to Disney in 2019 saw James depart as CEO

FOX NEWS
News Corp. doesn't own Rupert Murdoch's Fox News network, which includes the Fox broadcast and sports networks and local TV stations

POLITICAL DIVERGENCE

CLIMATE CHANGE
In January, he denounced the climate change skepticism of some Murdoch media, citing coverage of the fires which devastated large parts of Australia

NEVER TRUMP
While Rupert Murdoch has been a longtime supporter of Republican President Donald Trump, his son has reportedly donated hundreds of thousands to Democrat challenger Joe Biden's 2020 campaign

MAJOR NEWS CORP PUBLICATIONS
- Wall Street Journal
- New York Post
- The Times
- The Sun
- HarperCollins

OWN VENTURES
James Murdoch has launched his own private holding company called Lupa Systems, which has taken a stake in Vice Media

My resignation is due to disagreements over certain editorial content published by the Company's news outlets and certain other strategic decisions
— James Murdoch

UAE successfully starts up Arab world's 1st nuclear power plant

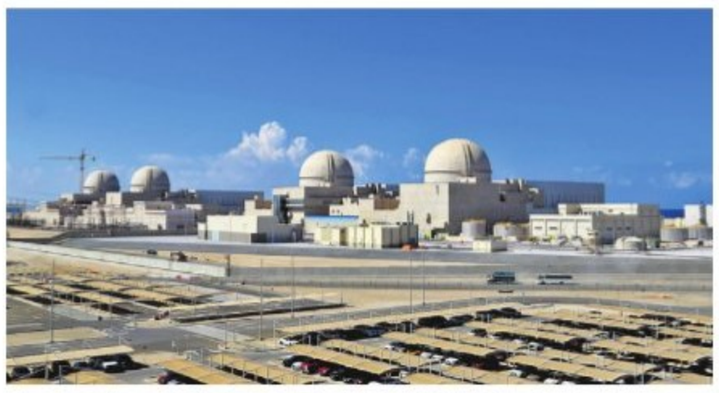
DUBAI

The oil-rich United Arab Emirates on Saturday announced the start up of its Barakah nuclear power plant, scoring another first for the Arab world.

The announcement, coinciding with the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha, comes hot on the heels of the UAE's launch of the Arab world's first probe to Mars.

"UAE first nuclear reactor at the Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant has achieved first criticality and successfully started up," tweeted Hamad Alkaabi, the country's representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency.

"This is a historic milestone for the nation with a vision set to deliver a new form of clean energy for the nation," he tweeted in English, along with a photo of technicians raising their arms in celebration.



The plant is located in the Gharbiya region of Abu Dhabi on the Gulf coastline | AFP

The UAE premier and ruler of Dubai, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, tweeted that work at Barakah had "succeeded in loading nuclear fuel packages, carrying out comprehensive tests and successfully completing the operation".

"Congratulations on realising this historic achievement in the energy sector & marking this milestone in the roadmap for sustainable development," Sheikh Mohammed said.

The UAE started loading fuel rods into the reactor at Barakah in Feb, after regulators gave the green light for the first of the plant's four reactors, opening the way for commercial operations. *AFP*

INDIAN EXPATS CAN RENEW PASSPORT IN 2 DAYS: REPORT

Indian expatriates in the UAE can now get their passports renewed in just two days with a new operating procedure taking effect from August, according to a media report. Further, the Indian Consulate in Dubai can now accept passport applications from expatriates living across the UAE, the *Gulf News* reported. Earlier, each emirate had its individual centre for verification. The passport renewal forms will be processed on the same day as it is received, Consul General of India in Dubai Dr Aman Puri said.

CITY UNION BANK LTD.
Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001.
Phone : 0435-2402322, 2401622 Fax : 0435-2431746

RE-TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

The following property/ies mortgaged to **City Union Bank Limited** will be sold in Re-Tender-cum-Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of a sum of **Rs.1,50,28,180/- (Rupees One Crore Fifty Lakh Twenty Eight Thousand One Hundred and Eighty Only)** as on **02-09-2019** together with further interest to be charged from **03-09-2019** onwards and other expenses, any other dues to the Bank by the borrowers / guarantors **No.1) M/s. Aishwarya Bar & Restaurant, No.23, 3rd Main, Opp. Kamat Yatrinivas, Gandhi Nagar, Bengaluru - 560 009. No.2) Mr. R. Rajendra, S/o. Mr. T.C. Muniveerappa, No.679, 61st Cross Road, 5th Block, Bashyam Circle, Rajaji Nagar, Bengaluru - 560 010. No.3) Mrs. M. Lalithamma, W/o. Mr. R. Rajendra, No.679, 61st Cross Road, 5th Block, Bashyam Circle, Rajaji Nagar, Bengaluru - 560 010.**

Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank
(Property I: Owned by Mrs. M. Lalithamma, W/o. Mr. R. Rajendra)

All that piece and parcel of property bearing House List No.860, Khatha No.862, situated at Mudala Palya of Malagalu Dhakale, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk as per BBMP records Property Assigned Municipal New No.2, situated at 8th 'B' Cross, Huchappa Layout, BBMP Ward No.37, New Ward No.103, PID No.37-84-2, Bangalore and measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 40 feet in all measuring 1,200 Sq.ft. and bounded as follows:- East by - Property No.5, West by - Property No.11, North by - Road, South by - Property No.9. Along with superstructure putup thereon.

Reserve Price: Rs.90,00,000/-
(Rupees Ninety Lakh Only)

AUCTION DETAILS

Date of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale	Venue
21-08-2020	City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Vijay Nagar Branch, 23/1, 17th Cross, M C Layout, Near Maruthi Mandir, Vijay Nagar, Bengaluru - 560 040. Telephone No.080-23504001, Cell No.7483060906.

Terms and Conditions of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale:
(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself / herself. **(2)** The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from **The Manager, City Union Bank Ltd., Bengaluru-Vijay Nagar Branch, 23/1, 17th Cross, M C Layout, Near Maruthi Mandir, Vijay Nagar, Bengaluru - 560 040.** **(3)** The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to **The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd.,** together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of **10%** of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of **"City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 12.00 Noon** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. **(4)** For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact **Telephone No.080-23504001, Cell No.7483060906.** **(5)** The property/ies are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever- there is" basis. **(6)** The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at **01.00 p.m.** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. **(7)** The successful bidder shall have to pay **25% (inclusive of EMD paid)** of the sale amount **immediately** on completion of sale and the balance amount of **75%** within **15 days** from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of **25%** shall be forfeited. **(8)** The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. **(9)** The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. **(10)** The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. **(11)** The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place: Kumbakonam, Date: 31-07-2020 — Authorised Officer

CITY UNION BANK LTD.
Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001.
Phone : 0435-2402322, 2401622 Fax : 0435-2431746

RE-TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

The following property/ies mortgaged to **City Union Bank Limited** will be sold in Re-Tender-cum-Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of a sum of **Rs.57,42,871/- (Rupees Fifty Seven Lakh Forty Two Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy One Only)** as on **02-09-2019** together with further interest to be charged from **03-09-2019** onwards and other expenses, any other dues to the Bank by the borrowers / guarantors **No.1) Mr. M. Zafrulla Khan, S/o. Mr. Mastan Khan, No.3725, 15th Ward, Near Masjid, Mahaboob Nagar, Ramanagara - 562 159. No.2) Mrs. Shabeena, W/o. Mr. Zafrulla Khan, No.3725, 15th Ward, Near Masjid, Mahaboob Nagar, Ramanagara - 562 159.**

Immovable Properties Mortgaged to our Bank
(Properties Owned by Mr. M. Zafrulla Khan, S/o. Mr. Mastan Khan)

Property No.1:- All the piece and parcel of the Immovable Property bearing Old Municipal Khata No.634/3707,New Municipal Khata No.205/3707, measuring East to West 45 feet, North to South 25 feet. Totally measuring 1,125.00 Sq.ft. situated in 2nd Stage, Hosahalli Maidan, Ram Nagara bounded by:- East - Municipal Road, West - Site No.50 belonging to Mastan Khan, North - Site No.73 belonging to Athaulla Baig, South - Site No.71 belonging to Abdul Khader @ Chote Lal. Along with superstructure putup thereon.

Reserve Price: Rs.36,00,000/-
(Rupees Thirty Six Lakh Only)

Property No.2:- All the piece and parcel of site bearing Municipal Khata No.339/A/3726/A, measuring East to West 15 feet, North to South 45 feet. Totally measuring 675.00 Sq.ft. situated in Ward No.15, Mehaboob Nagar, Ramnagara bounded by:- East - Other Property of present owner, West - Road, North - Other property of present owner, South - Property of Zia Ulla Khan. Along with superstructure putup thereon.

Reserve Price: Rs.10,00,000/-
(Rupees Ten Lakh Only)

AUCTION DETAILS

Date of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale	Venue
29-08-2020	City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Ramanagara Branch, B.M.Road, 316, I Stage, Near Bus Stand, Bengaluru-Mysore Main Road, Ramanagara, Bengaluru - 571 511. Telephone No.080-27276688, Cell No.9379511195.

Terms and Conditions of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale:
(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself / herself. **(2)** The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from **The Manager, City Union Bank Ltd., Bengaluru-Ramanagara Branch, B.M. Road, 316, I Stage, Near Bus Stand, Bengaluru-Mysore Main Road, Ramanagara, Bengaluru - 571 511.** **(3)** The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to **The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd.,** together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of **10%** of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of **"City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 12.00 Noon** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. **(4)** For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact **Telephone No.080-27276688, Cell No.9379511195.** **(5)** The property/ies are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever- there is" basis. **(6)** The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at **01.00 p.m.** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. **(7)** The successful bidder shall have to pay **25% (inclusive of EMD paid)** of the sale amount **immediately** on completion of sale and the balance amount of **75%** within **15 days** from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of **25%** shall be forfeited. **(8)** The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. **(9)** The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. **(10)** The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. **(11)** The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place: Kumbakonam, Date: 31-07-2020 — Authorised Officer

QuoteExpress
IF YOU'RE GOING THROUGH HELL, KEEP GOING › WINSTON CHURCHILL

2.64% The gap between last year's power consumption and this year's levels have narrowed to just 2.64 per cent in the month of July, according to official data.

GST collections for July decline to ₹87,422 crore

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

AFTER showAfter showing signs of some revival in June, India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection dipped again in July to ₹87,422 crore—14 per cent lower than last year's numbers and far below the generally accepted comfort mark of ₹1 lakh crore. GST collection during the month of May had stood at ₹90,917 crore.

July's collections stand at 86 per cent of the GST revenues recorded in the same month last year. In July 2019, the government's GST mop up was ₹1.02 lakh crore.

Of the ₹87,422 crore collected in July, ₹16,147 crore was collected as Central GST, ₹21,418 crore as State GST, ₹42,592 crore (including ₹20,324 crore collected on import of goods) as IGST and ₹7,265 crore (including ₹807 crore collected on import of goods) as Compensation Cess, the Ministry of Finance said.

The maximum decline in July collections was seen in Uttarakhand, Delhi, Haryana, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Jammu and Kashmir and West Bengal. States such as Rajasthan, Nagaland, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh have either shown growth in GST collections or have maintained levels the same as 2019.

TAX INCOME

14% fall in July 2020 GST collections over 2019

₹87K cr collected as GST revenue during the month

₹16,147 crore was collected as CGST, ₹21,418 crore as SGST, ₹42,592 crore as IGST and ₹7,265 crore as compensation cess

"The revenues for the last month were higher than the current month. However, it is important to note that during the previous month, a large number of taxpayers also paid taxes pertaining to February, March and April 2020 on account of the relief provided due to COVID-19. It may also be noted that the taxpayers with turnover less than ₹5 core continue to enjoy relaxation in filing of returns till September 2020," the revenue department said.

The government said it has settled ₹23,320 crore to CGST and ₹18,838 crore to SGST from IGST as part of the regular settlement. The total revenue earned after regular settlement in the month of July 2020 was consequently ₹39,467 crore for CGST and ₹40,256 crore SGST.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will call for a meeting of the Council soon

Govt seeks legal opinion on GST compensation

GST Council meeting on the issue after the law ministry and AG provide their opinions

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

FINANCE Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said that the government will soon discuss with the GST Council the issue of the states' compensation, as soon as the government has gotten the formal opinion of the Law ministry and after consultations with the Attorney General (AG).

"The matter (GST compensation) was discussed in the last GST Council meeting and it was decided that a legal opinion should be taken. After the law ministry gives its formal opinion, we will soon fix a date in consultation (with the) AG," Sitharaman told reporters.

The matter (GST compensation) was discussed in the last GST Council meeting and it was decided that a legal opinion should be taken. After the law ministry gives its formal opinion, we will fix a date

Nirmala Sitharaman

An outcry over the states' compensation under the GST system was triggered on Tuesday after the revenue secretary was reported to have cited the government's inability to pay states in the near future at a Parliamentary panel meeting. This was followed by media reports stating that the legal opinion of the AG suggests that the Centre does not have the obligation to pay, which created outrage among state governments.

"AG's opinion seems to be that if there is no money in the cess fund it's upto the GST Council to make appropriate arrangements. Fine. But the Centre has 1/3rd votes in the Council. No decision can be taken without its concurrence. So the question is, what is its stance? To pay or not to pay?" Kerala Finance Minister Thomas Isaac commented on twitter. Even Punjab Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal, in a letter to Sitharaman on Friday, stated that Centre had provided "innumerable assurances" in the run-up to GST for "assured and unhindered compensation". Even BJP ruled states have raised apprehensions.

Under the law, states were guaranteed to be compensated bi-monthly for any loss of revenue in the first five years of the GST implementation from July 1, 2017. The shortfall is calculated assuming a 14 per cent annual growth in GST collections by states over the base year of 2015-16. The Centre released over ₹1.65 lakh crore in 2019-20 as GST compensation. However, cess collected during 2019-20 was ₹95,444 crore. The compensation payout was ₹69,275 crore in 2018-19 and ₹41,146 crore in 2017-18.

MSME credit line to include professionals

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Centre has expanded the ambit of the ₹3 lakh crore Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) to include bigger MSMEs as well as professionals such as doctors and chartered accountants who need loans for business purposes.

"After consultations with stakeholders, it has been decided to include individual loans for business purposes within the ambit of ECLGS," said Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

Debashish Panda, Secretary, Department of Financial Services said individuals can avail the scheme if they have already taken loans from banks for business purposes.

Also, to allow more firms to benefit from the scheme, the eligibility criteria has been relaxed with the upper ceiling of loans outstanding being doubled from ₹25 crore to ₹50 crore.

The government also increased the annual turnover ceiling of companies that can avail loans to ₹250 crore from ₹100 crore at present. Besides, the maximum amount that can be availed under the scheme has been hiked to ₹10 crore from ₹5 crore.

The relaxation is expected to help more businesses to sail through the financial crisis on account of the pandemic.

Under ECLGS, 100% guarantee coverage will be provided by the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company for additional funding of up to ₹3 lakh crore to eligible MSMEs and Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency borrowers in the form of a guaranteed emergency credit line facility.

ECLGS was announced as a part of the government's ₹20 lakh crore Aatmnirbhar Bharat Package to help small businesses tide over the economic crisis trigerred by teh coronavirus pandemic.

July auto sales show demand swelling as economy regains momentum

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

AFTER a very discouraging first quarter (Q1FY21), Indian automakers have recorded a major revival in their July sales numbers. What's more interesting is that the pickup in sales comes even as cases of Covid-19 in India continue to grow at a comparatively faster than most places in the world.

India's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India (MSIL) recorded total sales of 108,064 units during the month-a growth of 88.2 per cent over June 2020 and a fall of 1.1 per cent over July 2019. However, its domestic passenger vehicle sales grew by 1.3 per cent year-on-year to 97,768 units. MSIL's utility vehicle sales, which includes models such as Vitara Brezza, Ertiga and S-Cross, registered an whopping growth of 26.3 per cent, rising to 19,177 units. Sales in the mini and compact segment, however, remained flat at 68,787 units.

Korean carmaker Hyundai Motor also had a stellar July. It posted a marginal 2 per cent decline in domestic sales at 38, 200 units during the month. Tarun Garg, Director (Marketing, Sales and Service) at HMIL said, "This performance was driven by good customer demand for our most admired brand: the all new Creta SUV, Venue, spirited new Verna, elite i20 and Nios."

Siimilarly, the country's largest two-wheeler maker Hero MotoCorp sold more than five lakh units in the domestic market last month. It sold 5,06,946 in July 2020 as against 5,11,374 units in the same month last year, a de-growth of just 0.86 per cent.

"The robust volumes have been driven by strong retail sales due to the positive market demand. While there is cautious optimism on the demand trajectory going forward, sales continue to be impacted by the micro-lockdowns in several parts of the country. For the growth momentum to continue, it would be pertinent for state and local authorities to provide a stable and consistent business environment as the situation evolves," Hero said in a statement.

Rival two-wheeler maker TVS Motor also reported a big improvement in July sales. TVS' domestic two-wheeler registered sales came in at 1,89,647 units in July 2020 as against 2,08,489 units in 2019.

Homegrown auto-major Mahindra & Mahindra witnessed a 34 per cent year-on-year decline in July PV sales at 11,025 units, but its tractor sales grew by 28 per cent to 24,463 units as rural buying remained strong.

DEMAND RECOVERY

- Maruti Suzuki India total sales at 108,064 units in July—a growth of 88.2% over June 2020
- Hyundai Motor also posted only a marginal 2 per cent decline in domestic sales at 38, 200 units

'Innova, Fortuner will remain on top'

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

JAPANESE carmaker Toyota (TKM) is confident that two of its most popular models in India—Innova Crysta and Fortuner—will continue to dominate their market segments despite many launches by rival carmakers in the segment.

"There have been many launches which were termed Innova beaters. However, our model maintained its lead in the MPV segment and, that too, after being in road for 15 long years. At one point of time this year, Innova commanded 70 per cent of the market share, which on an average remains 40-45 per cent," Naveen Soni, Senior VP, Sales & Services, Toyota Kirloskar Motor said.

Toyota's comments come even as rivals eye the MPV segment. The most prominent launches here were are Kia Motors' Carnival, which so far has received a positive response from the market, and MG's Hector Plus. But, Toyota believes differently. "Very low maintenance cost, great resale value and perfect blend of luxury and comfort keeps Innova ahead of the race. As for Fortuner, it has a different set of customers. It sits at the top of SUV line up and is one of the most aspirational SUVs," Soni said.

Samsung is among the companies that have applied for the scheme | EXPRESS

22 mobile companies apply for India's new incentive scheme: Govt

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

AT least 22 companies have applied for the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology's (MeitY) production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme that seeks to boost domestic electronics manufacturing and make India a manufacturing and export hub for mobile phones.

Addressing a press conference on Saturday, the minister of electronics and IT Ravi Shankar Prasad urged Apple and Samsung to expand their presence in India, benefiting from the ₹41,000 crore incentive scheme. Together, they have proposed to produce mobile devices and components worth over ₹11 lakh crore in the next five years, he added.

Global mobile manufacturing companies that have applied under the incentive scheme are Samsung, Rising Star and three Apple contract manufacturers-Foxconn Hon Hai, Wistron and Pegatron. There has been significant interest expressed by local manufacturers as well, with applications being filed by Lava, Dixon, Micromax, Sojo, Optimus and Padget Electronics. While Foxconn also makes mobile phones for market leader Xiaomi and HMD, the maker of the current crop of Nokia phones, none of the other Chinese companies such as Oppo, Vivo, Realme and OnePlus have applied for these benefits.

Over the next five years, the scheme is expected to lead to production of mobiles and components worth ₹11.5 lakh crore. Of these, over ₹7 lakh crore worth of products will be exported

Ravi Shankar Prasad

"Over the next five years, the scheme is expected to lead to production of mobiles and components worth ₹11.5 lakh crore. Of these, over ₹7 lakh crore worth of products will be exported. The scheme is also expected to generate three lakh direct jobs and over nine lakh indirect jobs in the country," Prasad told reporters.

Over 40 applications were also received for the Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC) scheme aimed at boosting manufacturing of electronics components. These include Austria-based AT&S and China-based Avary, US-based Visicon, Taiwanese Walsin. Among Indian firms who have applied are Ascent Circuits, Sahasra and SFO Technologies.

Apple-maker Pegatron and Samsung have committed a cumulative investment worth ₹11,000 crore, while Lava plans to invest around ₹800 crore over the next five years, said sources. Under the scheme, cash incentives of 4-6 per cent will be extended for five years on incremental sales of goods manufactured in India with 2019-2020 as the base year. Companies that make mobile phones which sell for ₹15,000 or more will get an incentive of up to 6 per cent on incremental sales of all such mobile phones made in India. In the same category, companies which are owned by Indian nationals and make such mobile phones, the incentive has been kept at ₹200 crore for the next four years.

For the first year, the total incentive to be given has been capped at ₹5,334 crore, while for the second and third year it has been kept at ₹8,064 and ₹8425 crore, respectively. In the fourth year, the incentive will be hiked substantially to ₹11,488 crore, while in the fifth and final year, the incentive to be distributed has been capped at ₹7,640 crore.

INTERNET

RIL-Facebook to capture 25% of online space

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

INDIA'S internet services market is set to skew sharply toward the newest and most muscular digital combine on the block—the Reliance and Facebook alliance. According to global analysts, the alliance which has a hold on India's largest telecom network Reliance Jio and the largest online network, the Facebook-Whatsapp ecosystem, is set to grab hold of a quarter of the country's online transaction pie by 2025.

According to a Goldman Sachs research report released last week, the "partnership could increase monetization levels of India internet, and garner 25 per cent of all internet Gross Transaction Value (GTV) by FY25." The brokerage went on to point out that Facebook's user base of 400 million plus Indians combined with Reliance could "bring more transacting users (100 million currently) into the fold, especially in e-commerce, the largest internet category".

"Existing players have so far been largely unsuccessful (in building a super app); however, we believe Facebook and RIL have the right building blocks to create a platform with both high engagement and monetization, but execution remains key," the brokerage said, adding that RIL would increasingly try to play a role across the consumer spectrum.

EXPRESS READ

3 yrs to hit 25% public shareholding

New Delhi: The Central Government has notified changes in the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957, providing more time to listed entities to meet criteria of minimum public shareholding of 25 per cent, a notification said on July 31.

Signature Global to invest ₹400 cr

New Delhi: Realty firm Signature Global will invest ₹400 crore over the next four years to develop a new affordable housing project in Gurugram. It will build 832 independent floors in this project located at Sohna Road, Gurugram, Haryana, it said.

MASK INDUSTRY

Non-woven fabric-makers want Centre to reverse export restrictions

Non-woven fabrics are a major input component in global mask production | EXPRESS

BINITA JAISWAL @ Chennai

NON-WOVEN Federation of India (NWFI) has urged the Central government to lift the restrictions imposed on the exports of spun-bond non-woven fabrics and masks, with the sector's representatives submitting that the move is significantly impacting the sector.

Nikesh Shah, general secretary of NWFI, which represents regional associations of spun-bond nonwoven fabric manufacturers and its products, including masks, has claimed that there is a strong anti-China sentiment in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic and everyone is looking at India as an alternative to China. However, due to the ban on exports, the manufacturers have not been able to take advantage of this situation. "Instead, the business is going to countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Indonesia," said Shah.

NFWI said that the had government recently allowed the exports of non-woven fabric of other than 25-70 GSM (Gram per Square Metre), while exports of fabric of 25-70 GSM continue to be prohibited.

"The majority of the demand is for spun-bond nonwoven fabric of 25-70 GSM. There should not be any restrictions on exports of fabric based on particular GSM," said Suresh Patel, president of NFWI. The Federation said that the restrictions on exports of spun-bond non-woven fabric and masks were justified when outbreak had started, but now the sector has surplus capacity. By lifting the ban, the Government will help the sector to attract good export orders, he noted.

India's spun-bond production capacity is 41,350 metric tonne per month while the sector has the capacity to daily produce 2 crore three ply masks and 70 lakh N95 masks. "Currently, we are manufacturing much more than our domestic requirement. Since exports are not being allowed, the capacity is grossly underutilized, causing huge losses to manufacturers," said Anshumali Jain, vice president, NWFI.

NWFI also demanded that the Centre should stop duty-free imports of masks. "More than 6 crore N95 masks have been imported duty-free between March and May. When local companies are in a position to meet the demand, the government should stop the duty-free imports," Patel said.

Aubameyang stars in Arsenal's FA Cup triumph

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang inspired Arsenal to a record 14th FA Cup win as the Gunners captain struck twice to beat Chelsea 2-1 in the final at Wembley on Saturday. Chelsea had initially taken 1-0 lead with Christian Pulisic's goal in the fifth minute, but Aubameyang's 28th minute penalty strike made it 1-1. The latter scored a winning goal in the 67th minute.

Franchises await operational details

IPL Governing Council meets today to finalise details of staging event in UAE, teams to be updated next week

ATREYO MUKHOPADHYAY
@Chennai

AN important meeting of the IPL Governing Council comes up on Sunday. The franchises are looking forward to it eagerly, because only after official clarification can they start the process of travelling to the UAE. As of now, they are in the dark about Covid-19 protocols, dos and don'ts of training and intra-city travel between Sharjah, Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

The meeting will be held online and seven members of the Governing Council led by chairman Brijesh Patel will be in attendance. BCCI president Sourav Ganguly is likely to join in as a special invitee. Representatives of the franchises have not been invited to the meeting. They will be updated about the proceedings in due course. If things go according to plans, the teams hope to start travel preparations next week.

"Everything related to travel and accommodation arrangements, size of contingents, guidelines to be followed in the UAE will be discussed. The matter of safety and implementation of safety parameters is priority. We have studied different models of bio-secure environments. Whatever is best for IPL and the participants, will be done," a Governing Council member said.

It has been learnt that although some of the plans have been made, the BCCI is still to get an official clearance from the government to stage the IPL in UAE. As long as that is not obtained, IPL officials will not share the details with the franchises. That is why team officials are still to hear from the Governing Council.

Some of the franchises feel it is time for them to know these details because they intend reaching UAE in the middle of August, so that the players can start getting ready for the tournament beginning on September 19. It has been over four months that Indian cricketers have not practised with bat and ball. Franchises want to give them a about month of training in the UAE before the events starts.

"We are expecting the Governing Council to release the standard operating procedures (SOP) tomorrow (Sunday) or Monday. There has been no communication from them regarding these things. And unless we know what is allowed, we can't start the process. Getting the SOP is important, considering that there will be guidelines for everything like travel, training, stay and local commute," said a senior official of a franchise.

DECISIONS EXPECTED

- When teams can reach UAE
- Training & travel dos and don'ts
- Availability of foreign players
- Bio bubble protocols
- Whether families will be allowed

Sponsorship change unlikely

The Governing Council is unlikely to discuss in details sponsorship issues. After the Indo-China border unrest in June, it was tweeted from IPL's official handle that the Governing Council will "review various IPL sponsorship deals". Chinese smartphone maker Vivo is the title sponsor of IPL. Sunday's is the first Governing Council meeting after that announcement.

"Not to my knowledge," the GC member said, when asked if terminating the deal with Vivo would be discussed. Given that little time is remaining before a new sponsor can be found and the hefty compensation BCCI has to pay in case of a contract termination, Vivo is likely to remain the title sponsor.

EXPRESS READ

Hockey natl camps likely after Aug 20

Chennai: Camps for both the senior men's and women's teams may begin only in the fourth week of August. While the players who left on a break have been asked to assemble at the SAI campus, Bengaluru on the 4th, it's expected that all of them will have to a serve compulsory two-week quarantine inside the campus. There could be a further one-week observation period before they commence on-field training after August 20. It's expected that all the returnees will be subject to a Covid-19 test upon arrival. One of the first to return will be women's head coach, Sjoerd Marijne. The Dutchman, who had had gone home in June, is scheduled to reach Bengaluru late on Saturday night or Sunday morning.

KEEPS GETTING WORSE FOR OLYMPIC CHAMP

A day before an athletics event in Trieste, Italy, Wayde van Niekerk tested positive for coronavirus. Here's a look at what happened and why this is another setback for the 400m Olympic champion from South Africa...

TRAINING IN EUROPE

The Olympic 400m champion and world-record holder had been training at his European base of Gemona del Friuli in Italy since July 19. He registered to run at Trieste Open in two events, 100m as well as 400m. His team and him had been tested multiple times since coming on a special flight from Johannesburg. On Friday night, he returned the positive test and this will send him into a 14-day self isolation as he is not feeling any symptoms.

2017 Last time Wayde van Niekerk ran in a competitive race outside South Africa

ANOTHER SETBACK

The 28-year-old has had rotten luck with injuries since winning gold at the 2017 World Championships. A knee injury at a charity rugby event in late 2017 ruled him out of the entire 2018 season. As he wasn't feeling a 100%, he skipped the Worlds last year.

FIELD IN TRIESTE

The Diamond League resumes this month and several Worlds medallists have already returned to the field. In Trieste, UK's Katarina Johnson Thompson (2019 world heptathlon champ) and Laura Muir (world indoor 800m silver medallist in 2018) will be in action.

"I don't know how it is possible. Wayde has been training for the whole week and never had any symptom, not even after testing positive. He hasn't had a fever. We've always been isolated, we've never been with other people, we've a hotel floor just for us, a dedicated room for breakfast, lunch, dinner."

Manager Peet van Zyl, in Italian newspaper Gazzetta Dello Sport

'IDTM would be happy to do dope control in IPL'

INDRANEEL DAS @Chennai

OF late, International Doping Tests and Management (IDTM) has been in focus, after the IPL was shifted to the UAE. There are discussions whether IDTM could be used for dope testing and its management. Until 2019, IDTM was involved with BCCI before the latter came under the National Anti-Doping Agency last August. Ashok Ahuja, former head of the department of sports medicine and sciences in Patiala, is also a lead dope control officer with IDTM. He speaks about its presence in India, its role and dope collection during Covid-19...

What is the role of IDTM and its function?
IDTM is based in Sweden and dedicated to the field of anti-doping. They have an extensive network all over the world and it has been in existence for 28 years. Lately, they have got a collaboration with the United States of America sister concern that is DFSI (Drug Free Sport International), under which they depute dope control officials all over the world depending on requests received from International Testing Agency and international federations. It is recognised by the World Anti-Doping Agency.

IDTM's association with BCCI and IPL
I am aware of a debate (whether we will be involved in anti-doping activities) ever since the BCCI and the IPL Governing Council decided to stage IPL in UAE. It is only last year that BCCI came under NADA and the latter has carried out dope tests in domestic competitions. IPL is a professional tournament where international players take part. Earlier, when IPL was shifted to the UAE or South Africa, IDTM was involved and officials were sent from India and abroad to carry out anti-doping activities. We can't say what can be the scenario this year because of Covid-19, keeping in view the bio-bubble. But if approached, IDTM would be happy to accept this responsibility.

What about IDTM in India?
It has been working in India for 15 years. I have been working with them since 2009. When we decided that BCCI shall carry out anti-doping tests in domestic competitions and IPL, IDTM approached BCCI and started certifying Dope Control Officers (DCOs) in India in 2010. Eventually every year in IPL until last year. Once they had DCOs lined up in India, they started giving them various 'missions' whenever they received requests from international federations to carry out dope testing (in competition and out-of-competition).

What about sample collection during Covid-19?
In Covid times, anti-doping activity has nearly come to a halt. For Covid-19, IDTM instituted another programme for recertification and that was known as Covid-19 examination for DCOs under which instructions were given on how to carry out out-of-competition and in-competition testing. Complying with WHO guidelines and in collaboration with WADA, they decided to take care of social distancing and etiquettes with respect to hygiene. Health of the athlete is of paramount importance.

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **HIDAYATHUR RAHMAN KHAN**, Residing at **1726, 6th B Main, 7th Cross, RPC Layout, Vijayanagara 2nd Stage, Bengaluru -560104** have changed my name to **HIDAYATHUR RAHAMAN KHAN**, vide affidavit dated 03/07/2020, sworn before notary M.K.Devaki, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ANTHONY RAJ SURESH**, S/o Susai Raju, age 52 years, R/at No. 1674/22, 6th Cross, Srinivas Nagar, Hadadi Road, Davangere-577 005, Karnataka, India now at Bangalore do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **ANTHONY RAJ ALIAS SURESH** to **ANTHONY RAJ SURESH**, hereafter I shall be known and called as **ANTHONY RAJ SURESH** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 31st July 2020, sworn before Advocate and Notary **GANGARAJU B.N.** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **VINAYAK. Y.B.**, S/o. Sri. Basavaraju Y.R., Aged about 48 years, Residing at No. 440/53, 10th G Main Road, 6th Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore - 560 010, have changed my daughter's name from **MAANYA .V.** to **MAANYA VINAYAK.** Vide affidavit dated 30-07-2020 sworn before Advocate & Notary C. Srinivas, Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT
I, **USHA R.**, W/o Muninarayana R., age 38 years, R/at No. 256, 1st Main, 1st Cross, Kamalanagar, Basaweshwaranagar, Bengaluru-79 do hereby declare that my late husband name is **MUNINARAYANA R.** and the same is recorded in my and his Aadhar Card and in some records as **G.R. NARAYANASWAMY**, hence I submit that both the names i.e. **MUNINARAYANA .R** and **G.R. NARAYANASWAMY** are one and the same and pertains to my late husband's only, vide affidavit dated 31-7-2020, sworn before Advocate and Notary **M. RAJENDRA** at Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT
We, (1) **RITESH KUMAR SINGHANIA,** S/o Pashupatinath Singhania, age 45 years, (2) **SUMAN SINGHANIA,** W/o Ritesh Kumar Singhania, age 40 years, Both r/at No. 35, Shambhsadan, 2nd Floor, Mallikarjuna Lane, ING Vysya Bank, Avenue Road Cross, Bangalore-02 do hereby declare that our son was born on 29/10/2004 by name **ISHAAN SINGHANIA** and in his educational records and birth certificate, mother's name was wrongly mentioned as **MEENU** instead of **SUMAN SINGHANIA,** vide affidavit dated 28-7-2020, sworn before Advocate and Notary **SUMITHRA N.** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MOHAMED ASLAM MADAR BACHA** S/o **MADAR BACHA HABIBUR REHAMAN,** R/at No. 90, Nehru Road, Kammanahalli St.Thomas Town, Bangalore-560084 have changed my name to **MOHAMMED ASLAM MADAR BACHA** Vide affidavit dated: 31/07/2020 before Notary **N.Narayana Swamy** Bangalore

AFFIDAVIT
I, **RITESH KUMAR SINGHANIA,** S/o Pashupatinath Singhania, age 45 years, R/at No. 35, Shambhsadan, 2nd Floor, Mallikarjuna Lane, ING Vysya Bank, Avenue Road Cross, Bangalore-02 do hereby declare that our son was born on 29/10/2004 by name **ISHAAN SINGHANIA** and in his educational records and birth certificate, fathers's name was wrongly mentioned as **RITESH SINGHANIA** and **RITESH** instead of **RITESH KUMAR SINGHANIA,** vide affidavit dated 30-7-2020, sworn before Advocate and Notary **SUMITHRA N.** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **RAJIV KUMAR** resident of House No. 321 / 61 MAP Quarters, HQ Training Command, IAF, Hebbal, JC Nagar Post, Bangalore-560006, have changed my son's Name from **RACHEET VATSA** to **RACHEET** vide Affidavit dated 31-07-2020.

brides

Naidu Balija MCA, 32 years. Working in IT, 5 Lakhs P/A. Own house. Raghu, Kedu dosham. Looking suitable bride. 9444422597
CL00336336

MATCH MAKER

FOR REQUIREMENT of all Naidu grooms/brides-Naidu Maga Sangam. Remarriages also. Horoscope matching. Manoharan 94456 88215.
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grooms

Hindu Vannar, Age – 28, Qualification – B. Tech., M.B.A., Star–Pooram, Rasi–Simmam, Private Company Job, Monthly Income 1.5 Lakh. Suitable Groom B.E / B.Tech., PG Qualified, Monthly Income 1 Lakh and above Per Month. Preferably from same Caste and Upto 33 Years age. Contact : 6383458461.
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CL00336412

THANKSGIVING

St Jude Thaddeus,Thanksgiving for all favours and blessings received . Kindlyintercede to Our Lord Jesus on our behalf. Amen. From Richard , Florence and Family
CL00335537

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LOST

I, Deeksha Pathak, D/o Suresh Chandra Pathak, residing at #4, Lakshmi Shankari PG,16th Main, 3rd C Cross, BTM 2nd stage, Bangalore-560076, lost my **B.Tech Final year original marksheet** issued by Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam Technical University (Formerly Known as Uttar Pradesh Technical University), Roll number:- 1264110013. Finder Contact:- **+91 8840709401.**

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Cancellation of E-Tender Notice No. MYS-COMML-2020-SLR-16315 Dated 25-06-2020
The above tender notice has been cancelled on administrative grounds.
For details log on:www.ireps.gov.in
Divisional Commercial Manager, Mysuru
Pub/103/AAS/PRB/SWR/2020-21

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that my clients **Mr Raziya Javid Shariff & Mrs. Javid Haroon Shariff,** Majors, R/at No. 628/22/1, 8th Main, 6th Cross, K.N.Extention, Yeswanthapura, Bengaluru 22, both are intended to purchase the below mentioned Schedule Property from the present owner **Sri V. Natarajan S/o Venkatesh,** R/at No.270/B, 2nd 'B' Cross, 2nd Stage, 3rd Block, Basaveswaranagara, Bengaluru-560079. The Owner have handed over the Xerox copies of the documents in respect of the schedule property which is in custody of my clients and to the above said owner has entered into an agreement of sale with my client. Any person/persons having any right, claim, title, interest or possession over the schedule property may file their objections to the undersigned with valid documents proof, within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice and if no valid objections/are received in respect of schedule property within above said stipulate period, my clients will proceed to purchase the above said property with assumption that, there are no objection or claim or title or interest or possession whatever nature from any persons for purchasing the schedule property. Any objections received thereafter 15 days will not be entertained and my clients will proceed to purchase the property in accordance of law.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property consisting of land and building bearing Municipal No.33, Sub No.33/11, PID No. 2-96-33/11, Ward No.2, Jalahalli, situated at 2nd cross, Brindavana Nagar, S.B.M Colony, Mathikere, Bengaluru-54, measuring East to West 58-ft and North to South 60-ft together with constructed 1/13 undivided land share Flat No pent house of Plinth area 1400 + 150+1550 sq ft, 3rd Floor, Built and super built areas and Servant Roof, toilet and bounded on the - East by-Road, West by- Private Property North by- Property No.10 and South by - Property No.7.

M. KRISHNA MURTHY, Advocate, No.243, 1st Floor, Pipeline Road, Yeswanthapura, Bengaluru-560022. murthykrishna574@gmail.com

CITY UNION BANK LTD.
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Phone : 0435-2402322, 2401622 Fax : 0435-2431746

RE-TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

The following property/ies mortgaged to **City Union Bank Limited** will be sold in Re-Tender-cum-Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of a sum of **Rs.91,43,865/- (Rupees Ninety One Lakh Forty Three Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty Five Only)** as on **03-09-2019** together with further interest to be charged from **04-09-2019** onwards and other expenses, any other dues to the Bank by the borrowers / guarantors **No.1) Mr. P. Subramanya Prabu @ Mr. P. Subramanya, S/o. Mr. T.S. Parameswaran, No.136/9, S-HIG - A Block, Narmada Building, KHB Colony, 5th Phase, Bangalore - 560 064. Also at:- Mr. P. Subramanya Prabu @ Mr. P. Subramanya, S/o. Mr. T.S. Parameswaran, No.65, 5th Main Road, 407 SFS, Yelahanka New Town, Bangalore - 560 064. No.2) Mrs. S. Vishala, W/o. Mr. P. Subramanya, No.136/9, S-HIG - A Block, Narmada Building, KHB Colony, 5th Phase, Bangalore - 560 064. No.3) Mr. T.S. Parameswaran, S/o. Mr. T.D. Subramaniaiyer, No.136/9, S-HIG - A Block, Narmada Building, KHB Colony, 5th Phase, Bangalore - 560 064.**

Immovable Properties Mortgaged to our Bank
Item No.I - (Property in the name of P. Subramanya Prabhu)

Schedule - A:- All that piece and parcel of the converted land in Sy.No.80 converted vide order No.BDS/ALN(S)SR(KT)171/2003-04 dated 12-04-2004 by Spl. Deputy Commissioner (Revenue), Bangalore District situated at Kengeri Village, Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore measuring 3.00 Acres ¼ Guntas or 1,30,953 Sq.ft. presently bearing BBMP KATHA No.4260/431/80 and bounded on the East by - Road heading from Kengeri to Hemmigepura and then Property purchased by Smt. Geetha, West by - Vrishabhavathi River Bund, North by - Pathway heading from Kengeri to Hemmigepura & South by - Pvt. Property, Kadriappas's Land.

Schedule - B:- 520 Sq.ft. each for Flat No.A502 of undivided share, right and title and interest comprised in Schedule - A Property.

Schedule - C:- Flat No.A-502 in Fourth Floor, A - Block of the building known as "Ramanuja Enclave" having 1,201 Sq.ft., of super built-up area, comprising of Two Bedrooms, Half Kitchen etc., along with one covered Car Parking Space.

Reserve Price: Rs.40,00,000/-
(Rupees Forty Lakh Only)

Item No.II - (Property in the name of Mr. P. Subramanya Prabhu)

Schedule - A:- All that piece and parcel of the converted land in Sy.No.80 converted vide order No.BDS/ALN(S)SR(KT)171/2003-04 dated 12-04-2004 by Spl. Deputy Commissioner (Revenue), Bangalore District situated at Kengeri Village, Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore measuring 3.00 Acres ¼ Guntas or 1,30,953 Sq.ft., presently bearing BBMP KATHA No.4260/431/80 and bounded on the East by - Road heading from Kengeri to Hemmigepura and then Property purchased by Smt. Geetha, West by - Vrishabhavathi River Bund, North by - Pathway heading from Kengeri to Hemmigepura & South by - Pvt. Property, Kadriappas's Land.

Schedule - B:- 520 Sq.ft. each for Flat No.B-502 Sq.ft. of undivided share, right and title and interest comprised in Schedule - A Property.

Schedule - C:- Flat No.B-502 in Fourth Floor, B - Block of the building known as "Ramanuja Enclave" having 1,201 Sq.ft. of super built-up area, comprising of Two Bedrooms, Half Kitchen etc., along with one covered Car Parking Space.

Reserve Price: Rs.40,00,000/-
(Rupees Forty Lakh Only)

AUCTION DETAILS

Date of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale	Venue
28-08-2020	City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Yelahanka Branch, No.324, 3rd A - Cross, First Phase, Yelahanka New Town, Bengaluru - 560 106. Telephone No.080-28463272, Cell No.9341005406.

Terms and Conditions of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale:
(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself / herself. **(2)** The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from **The Manager, City Union Bank Ltd., Bengaluru-Yelahanka Branch, No.324, 3rd A - Cross, First Phase, Yelahanka New Town, Bengaluru - 560 106.** **(3)** The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to **The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd.,** together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of **10%** of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of **"City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 12.00 Noon** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. **(4)** For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact **Telephone No.080-28463272, Cell No.9341005406.** **(5)** The property/ies are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever-there is" basis. **(6)** The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at **01.00 p.m.** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. **(7)** The successful bidder shall have to pay **25% (inclusive of EMD paid)** of the sale amount **immediately** on completion of sale and the balance amount of **75%** within **15 days** from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of **25%** shall be forfeited. **(8)** The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. **(9)** The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. **(10)** The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. **(11)** The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place: Kumbakonam, Date: 31-07-2020 — Authorised Officer

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E- Tender Notice No.11/2020 Dated :14/07/2020
Invites to participate in E- Open Tender through IREPS only for supply of following items, Tender closing Time: 14:00 Hrs.

Sl	Tender No.	Description in brief	Qty	Tender Due on
1	56201097	PVC Insulated, Armoured, Unscreened, Underground Aluminium conductor power cable (Size 2C X 25 Sq.mm).	400 KMs	16.09.2020
2	56201091	PVC Insulated, Armoured, Unscreened, Underground Railway Signalling Cable (Size 12C X 1.5 Sq.mm).	300 KMs	10.09.2020
3	56201098	PVC Insulated, Armoured, Unscreened, Underground Railway Signalling Cable (Size 19C X 1.5 Sq.mm).	500 KMs	04.09.2020
4	56205002	24 Fibre Armoured Optical Fibre Cable.	500 KMs	31.08.2020
5	56201094	Railway Signalling and Telecom Cable 6 Quad 0.90 mm dia Conductor Underground Jelly filled Quad Cable.	420 KMs	27.08.2020
6	56201090	PVC Insulated, Armoured, Unscreened, Underground Railway Signalling Cable (Size 24CX1.5Sq.mm).	500 KMs	24.08.2020
7	18201229	Switch Roller.	1893 Nos.	17.08.2020
8	56201029	Supply of Relay Non AC immune Plug in type, Style QT	660 Nos.	14.08.2020
9	56201101A	Relay AC immunized Plug in type, Style QTA2.	2000 Nos.	12.08.2020

Corrigendum
1.For Tender No.17201156, Notice No.10/2020 due date changed from 28.07.20 to 24.08.20.
2.For Tender No.16201459A, Notice No.10/2020 due date changed from 27.07.20 to 26.08.20.
3.For Tender No.16201131, Notice No.10/2020 due date changed from 24.07.20 to 31.08.20.
4.For Tender No.12205001, Notice No.09/2020 due date changed from 15.07.20 to 04.08.20.
5.For Tender No.18205013, Notice No.09/2020 due date changed from 15.07.20 to 04.08.20.
6.For Tender No.17205020, Notice No.09/2020 due date changed from 16.07.20 to 04.08.20.
7.For Tender No.18201123, Notice No.09/2020 due date changed from 15.07.20 to 01.09.20.
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Principal Chief Materials Manager,
PUB/102/AAV/PRB/SWR/2020-21 Hubballi

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY SUPPLY OF STORES ITEMS
STORE DEPARTMENT
"THROUGH E- PROCUREMENT TENDERS"
TENDER NOTICE No.: S/2020/25 **Date: 30.07.2020**
The Principal Chief Material Manager, North Western Railway, headquarter 4th floor, Near Jawahar Circle, Malviya Nagar, Jaipur-302017 for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open E-tenders on www.ireps.gov.in site as follows. All the E- tenders will be closed at 14.25 hrs.

No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Unit	Due Date
1.	82201269	ANALOG INSULIN GLARGINE 100UNITS/ML. 3ML	14800	Nos.	11.08.2020
2.	82201265	VILDAGLIPTIN 50MG. WITH METFORMIN 500MG. TAB/CAP.	272800	Nos.	11.08.2020
3.	30202195	FLEX BALL CABLE	97	Nos.	12.08.2020
4.	82201272	ANALOGUE BIPHASIC INSULIN MIXTURE OF LISPRO 25% AND LISPRO PROTAMINE 75%, 100IU/ML. 3ML.	6420	Nos.	12.08.2020
5.	82202105	HYALURONIC ACID 60 MG INJ	220	Nos.	12.08.2020
6.	60205030	COMPUTERIZED AND AUTOMATED SINGLE CAR TEST RIG FOR LHB ICF & COACHES	03	Nos.	13.08.2020
7.	82201267	VILDAGLIPTIN 50 MG. TAB	216500	Nos.	18.08.2020
8.	50195353B	SUPPLY OF RELAY QL-1	1952	Nos.	21.08.2020
9.	10204890	CYLINDRICAL ROLLER BEARING	26	Nos.	26.08.2020
10.	70201822B	PVC FLOORING (VINYL) WIDTH 1620MM	69604	SQM	28.08.2020
11.	50205050	LED SHUNT SIGNAL UNIT 110 V AC RECTROFITABLE	832	Nos.	28.08.2020
12.	10204324	CIRCUIT MODULE DO 300	23	Nos.	15.09.2020
13.	10204839A	RESISTOR DYNAMIC BRAKING GRID NON FAN TAP	37	Nos.	16.09.2020
14.	10204022	WATER PUMP REPAIR KIT	198	Nos.	23.09.2020
15.	40201403	BELT TENSIONING DEVICE COMPLETE SUITABLE FOR 4.5 KW	1203	Nos.	13.10.2020
16.	40201438	FOUR V DEEP GROOVE AXLE PULLEY ASSEMBLIES FOR 4.5 KW BRUSHLESS	89	Nos.	24.11.2020

Note:- (1) Interested tenderers may visit the website for Full Details/description/specification/EMD & tender cost etc. All tenderers are requested to obtain digital signatures and get them registered on above site and quote electronically only. (2) For viewing and participating in other tenders such as open tender costing below Rs. 25 Lakh, limited tenders, special limited tenders and low value tenders, please visit www.ireps.gov.in. (3) For any information please see our solution centre, click our website **www.nwr.indianrailways.gov.in.** 688-VM/20
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QuoteExpress **WITHOUT HARD WORK, NOTHING GROWS BUT WEEDS** › GORDON B HINCKLEY

In the next step to integrate its family of apps that are being used by 3.14 billion users globally, Facebook has integrated Messenger rooms with WhatsApp on the Web.

According to a study published in *Frontiers in Psychiatry*, well-being strategies such as breathing exercises can improve mental health in college students and manages stress and anxiety.

EXFILE

Emus banned for 'bad behaviour'

Last week, an Australian Outback pub banned emus for "bad behaviour" and erected barriers to prevent the large, flightless birds from creating havoc inside. Australians have always had an uneasy relationship with birds. We take a look how the Emu War, a wildlife management military operation, in 1932, failed to control its population

PARROTS WELCOME, NOT EMUS

While Australian pubs occasionally have a parrot in the bar, emus are not indoor birds

SCIENTIFIC NAME
Dromaius novaehollandiae

LENGTH
139 to 164 cm

WEIGHT
31-37 kg
Females are usually slightly larger than males

WING CORD
20 cm

RUNNING SPEED
48 kmph

NUMBER OF TOES
3

TOE AND CLAW
15 cm

BILL
5-7 cm

EMU ANTICS

Locals and tourists have been bemused by the antics of the emus eager to steal food from people in Yaraka, a remote Queensland state outpost

The previous week, two of the birds, Carol and Kevin, discovered they could climb the front stairs of the Yaraka Hotel

NOT SO CLEVER

The owner of the hotel solved the problem by stringing a rope across the top of the stairs

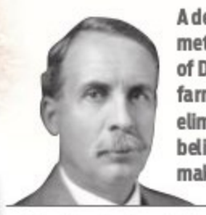
A sign advises customers to replace the rope once they enter

The inquisitive emus are not yet clever enough to duck under the rope to get inside the pub

When emus get a fright, they head in a forward direction, but are normally looking behind so they can't see where they're going and this is where chaos can happen. They bump into everything

Chris Gimblett, Yaraka Hotel's publican

THE WAR BEGINS



A deputation of former-soldiers met George Pearce, the Minister of Defence, who allowed the farmers to use machine guns to eliminate the birds . He believed that the birds would make good target practice

The Australian defence minister put forth the following three conditions:

1. Guns for shooting the birds to be used only by military personnel
2. Troop transport to be financed by the Western Australian government
3. Farmers to provide food, housing and payment for the ammunition

BIRDS WIN THE WAR

Despite the culling, farmers again requested military assistance in **1934, 1943** and **1948**. The repeated requests showed that the culling programme failed to end the emu menace

TWO CULLING ATTEMPTS

Negative press coverage led to the govt to withdraw the military personnel and the guns. However, the attacks of the emus persisted and mid-November, another culling operation began

WHAT HAPPENED IN 1932?

The Australian govt gave large tracts of land to army veterans who served during World War I

They were encouraged to take up farming within Western Australia

1929

The Great Depression forced farmers to increase their wheat crops

Despite government promises of subsidies, wheat prices continued to fall

OCT 1932

Farmers were ready to harvest the crop while simultaneously threatening to refuse to deliver the wheat to the government, emus were knocking on the door

DOUBLE TROUBLE

20K+

emus were migrating during that time. The cultivated lands were good habitat for the birds

They began to enter into farm territory where there was additional water supplies. They consumed and spoiled the crops. These birds also left large gaps in fences, which allowed rabbits to enter and cause further problems

FLORIDA TEEN BEHIND TWITTER HACK ARRESTED

Attack was a result of 'phone spear phishing' allowing the accused to take control of users' accounts and dupe people into sending Bitcoin

MASTERMIND CAUGHT

MIAMI: A Florida teen was identified on Friday as the mastermind of a scheme earlier this month that commandeered Twitter accounts of prominent politicians, celebrities and technology moguls and scammed people around the globe out of more than $1,00,000 in Bitcoin. Two other men were also charged in the case.

Graham Ivan Clark, 17, was arrested on Friday in Tampa, where the Hillsborough State Attorney's Office will prosecute him as an adult. He faces 30 felony charges, according to a news release.

Two men accused of benefiting from the hack — Mason Sheppard, 19, of Bognor Regis, UK, and Nima Fazeli, 22, of Orlando — were also charged separately in California federal court.

In one of the most high-profile security breaches in recent years, bogus tweets were sent out on July 15 from the accounts of Barack Obama, Joe Biden, Mike Bloomberg and a number of tech billionaires including Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos, Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates and Tesla CEO Elon Musk. Celebrities Kanye West and his wife, Kim Kardashian West, were also hacked.

The tweets offered to send $2,000 for every $1,000 sent to an anonymous Bitcoin address. The hack alarmed security experts because of the grave potential of such an intrusion for creating geopolitical mayhem with disinformation.

Court papers in the California cases say Fazeli and Sheppard brokered the sale of Twitter accounts stolen by a hacker who identified himself as "Kirk" and said he could "reset, swap and control any Twitter account at will" in exchange for cybercurrency payments, claiming to be a Twitter employee.

The documents do not specify Kirk's real identity, but say he is a teen being prosecuted in the Tampa area.

Twitter has said the hacker gained access to a company dashboard that manages accounts by using social engineering and spear-phishing smartphones to obtain credentials from "a small number" of Twitter employees "to gain access to our internal systems." Spear-phishing uses email or other messaging to deceive people into sharing access credentials.

"There is a false belief within the criminal hacker community that attacks like the Twitter hack can be perpetrated anonymously and without consequence," US Attorney David L. Anderson for the Northern District of California said in a news release.

The evidence suggests, however, that those responsible did a poor job indeed of covering their tracks.

The court documents released on Friday show how federal agents tracked down the hackers through Bitcoin transactions and by obtaining records of their online chats.

Although the case was investigated by the FBI and the US Department of Justice, Hillsborough State Attorney Andrew Warren said his office is prosecuting Clark in state court because Florida law allows minors to be charged as adults in financial fraud cases when appropriate.

He called Clark the leader of the hacking scam.

"This defendant lives here in Tampa, he committed the crime here, and he'll be prosecuted here," Warren said.

Security experts were not surprised that the alleged mastermind is a 17-year-old, given the relatively amateurish nature of both the operation and how participants discussed it with *New York Times* reporters afterward.

"This is a great case study showing how technology democratises the ability to commit serious criminal acts," said Jake Williams, founder of the cybersecurity firm Rendition Infosec. "There wasn't a tonne of development that went into this attack."

Natural toxins killed Botswana's jumbos?

MYSTERY REMAINS

JOHANNESBURG: Hundreds of elephants that died mysteriously in Botswana's famed Okavango Delta probably succumbed to natural toxins, the country's wildlife department said on Friday.

The landlocked southern African country has the world's largest elephant population, estimated to be around 130,000. Around 300 of them have been found dying since March.

Authorities have so far ruled out anthrax, as well as poaching, as the tusks were found intact. Preliminary tests conducted in various countries far have not been fully conclusive and more are being carried out, Wildlife and Parks Department boss Cyril Taolo told *AFP* in a phone interview. "But based on some of the preliminary results that we have received, we are looking at naturally-occurring toxins as the potential cause," he said. He explained that some bacteria can naturally produce poison, particularly in stagnant water.

BRANCH MANAGER

A scaly-breasted munia takes a break from looking for food and catches somerest in Chennai on Saturday. These sparrow-sized birds are native to tropical Asia andare found in plains and grasslands | ATREYO MUKHOPADHYAY

Covid-19 may cause deadly blood clots in pregnant women

NEW FINDINGS

NEW YORK: In a fight against the novel coronavirus, researchers have revealed that Covid-19 may increase the risk of blot clots in women who are pregnant or taking estrogen with birth control or hormone replacement therapy.

According to researchers, the novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, has proven unusual with respect to the spectrum of its pathological effects.

"In addition to the damage inflicted on the lungs, kidneys, heart and other organ systems, reports have emerged of hypercoagulable states in patients hospitalized with Covid-19," said study author Daniel I Spratt from the Tufts University in the US.

A hypercoagulable state is a medical term for a condition in which there is an abnormally increased tendency toward blood clotting (coagulation).

According to a new manuscript published in the Endocrine Society's journal, *Endocrinology*, one of the many complications of Covid-19 is the formation of blood clots in previously healthy people.

Estrogen increases the chance of blood clots during pregnancy and in women taking birth control pills or hormone replacement therapy. If infected with Covid-19, the risk of blood clotting could be even higher, and they may need to undergo anticoagulation therapy or to discontinue their estrogen medicines.

"During this pandemic, we need additional research to determine if women who become infected with the coronavirus during pregnancy should receive anticoagulation therapy," Spratt said.

Researching and understanding the cause of blood clotting in Covid-19, including the intersecting effects of estrogen therapy or pregnancy, has several hurdles and will require innovative animal and tissue models, the team said.

FACT OF THE MATTER

FB brings music videos

PUMP UP THE VOLUME

Facebook on Friday announced to bring official music videos from top artists to its main platform in the US. Facebook launched the music videos in partnership with Sony Music Group, Universal Music Group, Warner Music Group, Merlin, BMG, Kobalt and many others. "Starting this weekend, you'll be able to discover, watch and share music videos from today's top artists to up-and-coming bands and classics across various music genres on Facebook," said Tamara Hrivnak, VP of Music Business Development and Partnerships and Vijaye Raji, VP of Entertainment in a blog post.

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SPLASHDOWN

US astronauts pack up for return trip from ISS

SPACEX

CAPE CANAVERAL: Two US astronauts about to make the first splashdown return in 45 years said on Friday they'll have sea-sick bags ready to use if needed.

SpaceX and NASA plan to bring Doug Hurley and Bob Behnken back on Sunday afternoon in the company's Dragon capsule, aiming for the Gulf of Mexico just off the Florida Panhandle. Flight controllers are keeping close watch on Hurricane Isaias, expected to stick to Florida's east coast.

Hurley said if he and Behnken get sick while bobbing in the waves awaiting recovery, it won't be the first time for a crew. Astronauts returning in the early 1970s from Skylab, NASA's first space station, did not feel well following splashdown, Hurley noted.

Feeling sick "is the way it is with a water landing," he said during the crew's final news conference from the International Space Station.

This will be SpaceX's first splashdown with astronauts on board, ending a two-month test flight that began May 30 at NASA's Kennedy Space Center — the first launch of a crew from the United States in nearly a decade. The capsule has been docked at the space station since May 31, allowing Hurley and Behnken to chip in with spacewalks and experiments.

(Left to right) NASA astronauts Doug Hurley and Bob Behnken | AFP

Hurley said the emergency and other equipment has checked out well aboard Dragon, dubbed Endeavour.

Launch and rendezvous went flawlessly, "so we expect nothing different for the splashdown," he said.

Their departure leaves three on board, one American and two Russians.

After splashdown, it will take an hour or so before the capsule is hauled by crane onto a SpaceX recovery ship, where the hatch will be opened and the astronauts will get out. Flight surgeons will be among the dozens of the recovery team members.

The prime target is off the coast of Panama City, halfway between Tallahassee and Pensacola. For now, undocking remains scheduled for approximately 5:04 am (IST) on Sunday and splashdown at 12:12 am (IST) on Monday.

Like launch, the ride back will be essentially automated, with the crew and flight controllers intervening only if necessary.